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BIRTH.

LAYARD.—On the 14th of April, 1913, at Caledonia, Lindula, the Wife of Frank H. Layard of a Son.

Editorial Notes

THE main topic of the day is labour. It is the subject of conversation wherever planters meet together, and it rouses hosts of scribes to write to the newspapers urging each his own remedy. It has even roused at least one old retired planter to write to the Secretary of State proposing heroic remedies. Doubtless the Secretary of State will seek from the local Government information regarding the qualifications of his correspondent. In the meantime, and more or less quietly, the Committee of the Proprietors' Labour Federation has set about revising the rules of that body, and has produced a scheme which is radically different from the old one. The proposed new rules appear in this number. They are in course of being sent to every estate proprietor, and it is at this stage impossible to predict the measure of support they will obtain. In giving birth to this new child the Federation will probably expire, and it remains to be seen whether its offspring can survive. Criticisms of all kinds are sure to be levied at the proposed new rules, but so would they be at any other proposal. It is not given to all men to appreciate the value of co-operation, and there are people who would decline to enter the Kingdom of Heaven if it necessitated the signing of an agreement to obey the rules of that locality. The general consensus of opinion is that the new rules of the Federation are imperfect, but are better than those they are designed to replace. This seems to be a sufficient reason to support them, provided that they can be shown at least to do no harm. For if experience has enabled them to be improved once, there is no reason why further experience should not improve them still further, so long as the combination hangs together. Without combination nothing is possible and in itself combination is more valuable than any of the rules it is used to enforce. Under the old rules certain estates were handicapped by the Rs. 40 limit, but this difficulty seems to have been overcome, and estates adhering to the new scheme do not in any way place themselves at a disadvantage as compared

with their unfederated neighbours. To turn to the rules themselves: numbers 1 to 18 are unaltered; they deal with the constitution of the body and with formal business. 19 to 22 are intended to prevent advances from rising further. If a large majority of estates carry out these rules, in both spirit and letter, it will be impossible for the present burthen of debt to grow heavier. Take an individual case: Ramasamy is found, under rule 19, to owe Rs. 50, he borrows Rs. 20 more from the kangani and this is duly entered in the accounts making his debt Rs. 70, which sum is reducible in the ordinary way by recoveries from pay. But he does not wait to pay this back, he asks for his tundu and gets it, under rules 21 and 22, at Rs. 50. Once bitten twice shy and the kangany who advanced that Rs. 20 will be rather chary of doing the same again, with the result, possibly, that coolies who wish for money will work and earn it instead of borrowing it. If, on the other hand, the original debt of Rs. 50 had been reduced by recoveries to Rs. 30 and a tundu then issued, the coolie would be registered afresh on the new estate at Rs. 30, and that amount alone would be recoverable from him. The effective application of these rules means then that debt can move in one direction only, viz., downwards; it can remain stationary, but it cannot increase. It is, of course, obvious that the adherence of 50% or 60% of the acreage under Tea and Rubber will be ineffective in the direction indicated above. Probably nothing less than 75% would suffice to render the check properly operative. The next rule, number 23, is an admirable one, though probably Rs. 15 is too high a rate.

Rule 24 is, of course, intended to protect the genuine recruiter. It may be a little difficult in operation but right in theory. Rules 25, 26, and 27 are the real machinery. Without them it would be impossible to detect breaches of the six rules preceding them. There is no doubt that the superintendent will kick at Rule 25. It will give him a very great deal of trouble. But it is not a recurrent trouble: once done it will not be hard to keep this registration up to date. These three rules were designed with the object of rendering those preceding them operative, but they have actually a much more extended value. The returns under these rules will amount to a fairly complete survey of the labour problem and when plotted, i.e., reduced to statistical form, will give a comprehensive and intelligible view of the position of the labour force in regard to its indebtedness. They will thus pave the way for more complete and wise reforms than we are at present in a position to undertake. Numbers 28 and 29 appear equitable and obvious. Numbers 30 to 34 are the old penal clauses.

Whether or no these proposed rules will meet with the support necessary for their establishment it is impossible to say. It lies on the knees of the gods and some of the gods have shaky knees. If the combination is not obtained and if the Federation dissolves, chaos will supervene and the devil will hunt the hindmost. Therefore we should join it. Many people write to the daily press and speak lightly of Government interference and of fresh legislation. Some of these free reformers forget to sign their names, and others, by signing, detract from the interest aroused by their communications. But some few, both sign good names and write sense. To those we may perhaps be forgiven for pointing out (1) that Government, if it legislates, is not going to enforce some private person's scheme, but will certainly devise some scheme of its own which we may or may not agree with; (2) that Government consists of some very small number of human beings, and that, since the departure of Sir Hugh Clifford, and in view of the impending departure of Mr. Jackson, these human beings are none of them, particularly conversant with our labour problem; and (3) that there is still time for us to face our own troubles in our own way without calling for help from any one.

If every Superintendent would give each woman who bears a child a free holiday of a month on full pay in the lines, and would thereafter help the mother to bear the increased burthen there would soon be no labour problem, and in ten years our labour force would be self-supporting without much recruitment from India.

There are many articles of interest in the Quarterly "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute" (Vol. X., No. 4 December, 1912), and we publish the following note *in extenso*, in the hope that some Ceylon Planter who has studied the matter and made experiments will send us his record and his views.

Hevea Spp.—*Teysmannia* (1912, 23,242) contains an account by W. R. Tromp de Haas of experiments made at Buitenzorg, Java, during 1911, with a view to determining whether it is more advantageous to tap daily or on alternate days. The trees were six to seven years old, and had a circumference of at least 18 in. at 3 ft. from the ground. Eight lots of sixty trees each were tapped as follows:—

- 1a. Two oblique cuts, 1 ft. apart, on each of two opposite quarters; tapped on alternate days.
- 1b. One oblique cut on each of two opposite quarters; tapped daily.
- 2a. Two V-cuts, 1 ft. apart on one-third of the circumference of the tree; tapped on alternate days.
- 2b. One V-cut on one-third on the circumference; tapped daily.
- 3a. Two oblique cuts, 1 ft. apart, on one-third of the circumference; tapped on alternate days.
- 3b. One oblique cut on one-third of the circumference; tapped daily.
- 4a. Two oblique cuts, 1 ft. apart, on one-quarter of the circumference; tapped on alternate days.
- 4b. One oblique cut on one-quarter of the circumference; tapped daily.

In this way the total amount of bark removed in each pair of the experiments was the same.

Tapping was carried on from January to December, 1911. The monthly yields of dry rubber are given for each lot of trees, also a table and curves showing the monthly yield of rubber per square metre of tapped surface. The results show a considerably greater yield per unit of tapped area with daily tapping than with tapping on alternate days. Further, the removal of a greater area of bark at a tapping did not result in a proportionately increased yield of rubber. With six-year old trees of an average circumference of 19 in. there was no marked difference in yield of rubber, whether the tree was tapped on one-quarter or one-third of the circumference. In lot 1b twice as much bark was removed as in lot 4b, but only 1.6 times as much rubber was obtained. During the period of the fall of leaf the yield of rubber diminished.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

FOR HALF-YEAR ENDING 31st DEC., 1912.

It is difficult to condense the valuable information contained in the 205 pages of this Report into a short article, but it has occurred to me that the following points may be of particular interest to my brother-Planters who have not the opportunity of reading the following Report.

TEA.—Exports of all Teas in 1912 amounted to 191,029,387 lbs., an increase of 3,354,397 lbs. over 1911. The distribution was very much the same as the previous year, Russia taking about two millions less, which was made up by about an equivalent increased shipment to Australia.

The Season was a very wet one, not conducive to good withering nor to the production of high-class Teas, but the market was generous enough to overlook this and prices were satisfactory throughout the year.

With regard to the falling off in Russian buying this is attributed to the quantity of reeds and stalks in Teas from both Up-and Low-Country. Though this is due to a certain extent to the hardening effect of the wet cold weather, planters must be most careful to eliminate, as far as possible, the undesirable stalks, if the Russian connection is to be satisfactorily maintained.

RUBBER.—The shipments of Rubber in 1912 were more than double those of 1911. The figures being:—

1911—7,154,658 lbs.; 1912—15,001,075 lbs. The United Kingdom and America are our standout Customers, but all Countries have participated in absorbing the increased output.

The range of prices was considerable, going from Rs. 3-97½ per lb. in March to Rs. 2-82½ per lb. in October. Competition was greatest for No. 1 Smoked Sheet, which generally fetched a higher price than the best Crepes.

(Forward Contracts for 1913 and 1914 indicate that those making use of Plantation Rubber are willing to pay about 4 shillings for it. But as some large buyers are filling up requirements in advance, it will not be surprising if slightly lower prices rule at the Auction owing to these buyers dropping out of competition).

Our rubber interests were very ably looked after by our Commissioner, Mr. F. Crosbie Roles, at the recent International Rubber and Allied Trades Exposition held at New York. The only Ceylon competitor to obtain men

tion in the Competitions was the Rosehaugh Tea and Rubber Co., Ltd., which secured a Silver Medal and Diploma.

The following spontaneous letter from a New York firm of brokers taken from general correspondence is most satisfactory reading, and should put great heart into Proprietors of Rubber Estates and Shareholders of Rubber Companies :—

"We think that we can safely say all the members of the entire Rubber Industry, as well as ourselves are intensely delighted with the advent of the Ceylon Crêpes into our Markets.

"They have displaced the African and Brazilian Rubbers already to quite an extent. I know of one Mill which is running entirely on Hevea Crêpes, and for many years it has used entirely Brazilian and African Rubbers.

"We know it is British brains and energy that has done this, and we wish to express our thanks to all, or anybody who has been a part of this movement, which is revolutionizing one of the world's greatest industries."

The definition of Wet Rubber as given in Clause 8 of Ordinance No. 21 of 1908 is so unsatisfactory that the matter is receiving attention from the Chamber. The definition reads "The latex of any Rubber Plant, whether fluid or coagulated, in any stage of preparation before the completion of the drying process."

Thefts of, and illicit trafficking in Rubber has also received much attention from both the Chamber and the Planters' Association, with the result that we read on Page 150 :—

"It has been ascertained from the Police authorities that all applications for licenses to deal in Rubber now received from Native dealers are, without exception, refused, and that whenever a reasonable complaint is made against the holder of an existing license, such license is immediately withdrawn. By this means it is confidently anticipated that licenses to deal in Rubber will shortly be limited to such a minimum as can be efficiently supervised and controlled by the Police."

This, it is considered, is the best preventive measure that can be adopted in the meantime for checking theft and illicit dealing.

Cocoa has had a good year as regards crop and prices. The shipments of 73,236 cwt. in 1912, being 11,515 cwt. in excess of 1911. Prices rose to Rs. 54 per cwt. for best grades; and black and lower grades averaged Rs. 29 per cwt.

CARDAMOMS, on the other hand, show a decrease in the exports of about 89,000 lbs., total shipments being 476,011 against 564,819 lbs. in 1911. The satisfactory prices realised for this product for all kinds may be attributed partly to this shortfall.

RICE.—Imports for 1912 show an increase of 108,839 bags as compared with 1911. The actual figures being :—1912—3,850,236 bags. 1911—3,741,397 bags.

Stocks in Colombo ran very low in August and September owing to estates filling up in anticipation of a Railway Strike, and prices took a sharp rise about this time—and though this was succeeded by a more normal scale of stocks, prices have not yet dropped to a figure which would eliminate "Loss on Rice" from Estate A/cs. The Rice question would appear to require thorough investigation as to supplies and control of prices.

MANURES.—It is interesting to see that "Rape Cake" and "Castor Cake" were not in demand so largely as in former years. Would they regain their lost position, could they be sterilized?

Imports of Manures in 1912 were not as large as in 1911, but it is expected that the valuation (the figures are not yet complete) of imported manures in 1912 will be larger than in 1911 owing to increased imports of the more expensive chemical fertilizers in place of the two manures above-mentioned.

There is a mass of other matter in the Report, interesting chiefly to the Mercantile community; but one other thing I might mention as likely to be of use to Planters when it becomes more extended, is the granting of Certificates by the Chamber of Commerce to young fellows from the various Colleges, who have passed an Examination on the Commercial Education they have received, thus fitting them for clerkships on Estates as well as in Colombo Offices.

The Director of Public Instruction should be applied for further information on this subject.

F. H. LAYARD.

27th March, 1913.

The C. P. R. C.

The necessity for Compulsory Military Service for every Britisher is not perhaps so apparent in Ceylon as it is in England and in Australia, but the time is coming and that very soon when every able-bodied man in the British Isles at any rate and probably beyond the Seas will be compelled to do some sort of military training to fit himself in some degree to uphold the honour of his Country in case of need.

The British Army is small, miserably so in comparison with those of the Continental Powers, and although we know it to be the best trained Army in the world it could not stand up alone for any length of time against even a fraction of the Armies of one of the Great Powers.

The danger to England, however, does not seem to lie so much in the direction of invasion as in the maintenance of our Army in the time of war. If 50,000 men or more were to land on the Coast after having given the Navy the slip it would be to our advantage if we still retained command of the sea and if our Expeditionary Force were still at home, because the 50,000 bottled up in England with no hope of reinforcement and with but little chance of escape would be at our mercy, as the whole of our forces at home could concentrate against them. But if the Expeditionary Force, consisting as it does of the whole of the British Field Army at home, had been sent abroad to fight allied with some Continental Power it would take a much smaller number than 50,000, if they once got past the Navy and effected a landing, to cause such consternation in England that she would be compelled to sue for peace at any price, and few of us can realise what the price would be; sufficient be it to say that Great Britain might be no longer Great and indeed might probably follow in the footsteps of the Spaniards and the Dutch and become a pawn instead of a Queen on the chess board of the World.

How can this come about? England, we know, has a splendidly trained Army and the men she can put into the

field are beyond comparison with others; all this is true enough, but think of the numbers! for how long could 160,000 men stand up against three or two or even one million trained fighting men? the odds are overwhelming.

In England there is practically no Reserve of really trained fighting men. The greater part of the Reserve is absorbed into the Army on mobilization or within the next month or two, and after that England will have to depend upon the recruits that enlist after war is declared, men and youths of all classes, able-bodied, well set up perhaps and strong, men of the normal City-clerk type who through no fault suffer from want of fresh air and healthy exercise, the weed and the street corner lad; within a few months recruits of this stamp will be passed and sent out to reinforce the Army in the field, and these men will be expected with the training they have undergone to hold their own with a trained enemy and bring glory upon the land that gave them birth!

The Navy is, as it ever has been and ever must be, our chief consideration. She is our first line of defence, and under the existing conditions practically our only line of defence. Our Navy must therefore remain, and nothing can be allowed to prevent it remaining the most powerful Fleet afloat.

So long as her Fleet is in being and is so situated as to render invasion impossible England is safe, but without an Army she cannot make her influence felt, she is only a negative Power and need not be reckoned with in Europe except as an ally to another Power. Good as the Army is, it cannot remain so, for long after the outbreak of war as the casualties which will occur must be replaced by only partially trained men, and these men will be found wanting in that most important military attribute, discipline, for discipline cannot be inculcated in that short time that would be available to train recruits.

On the outbreak of war with a Great Power it seems probable that a short Bill would be passed compelling every able-bodied man between certain ages to present himself for training. The Bill must take a certain time to pass and the organization of the Staff for training these men will take more time. Again the training to be of any use must be carried out by up-to-date Officers and N. C. O.'s, but these very Officers and N. C. O.'s will have to be withdrawn from Units which have already been depleted of these ranks to form Units raised on mobilization (such as Mounted Infantry Battalions, Signal Companies, etc.) Hence either the Army must suffer for the good of the recruits it is proposed to train or the recruits must be trained by Officers and N. C. O.'s who are on the Reserve of Officers and by pensioners who are mostly notoriously out-of-date. Nothing short of the Army at its best must be immediately available.

"Six months to train!" what person other than a politician would dare to say such a thing, and who but a fool would believe it? And more—shall we be allowed such a liberal measure of time as even six months?

Compulsory Service is a distasteful term to the average Briton who has an innate dislike to the suggestion of compulsion, although he must know that he is under it in some form in every walk of life. Call it what you like, Compulsory Service, Universal Training, National Training, it is necessary, indeed vital to the security of the Empire. If the Colonies adopt Universal Service the Mother Country will be able to place a relatively larger Army at

the decisive point. Because the Colonies, being in a position to protect themselves, will release Units of the Regular Forces detailed for their protection who will thus be enabled to swell the Forces which must meet the Enemy's main Army.

Australia has adopted Compulsory Service, and it seems to be working as well as could be expected. There have been very few of the troubles that had been anticipated, and it has undoubtedly done good by employing the "larrikin" class. It does good to all classes, in that it brings them together and teaches them discipline.

The danger anticipated by many in England that the Institution of Compulsory Service would act detrimentally to the recruiting for the Regular Army is negated in a most decided manner by the way in which recruits of the Special Reserve, who may join the Regulars after three months' training as such if up to the physical standard, are taking advantage of the permission and are joining the Regulars. The vast majority of the boys join the Special Reserve because they are starving, it is their last resource, but very soon they find that the Army is not the Hell which had been pictured to them; on the contrary they find themselves well fed, well clothed, well treated and (considering that all the money they get is pocket money) well paid; there is plenty of work, but they have also plenty of time to themselves. Compulsory Service would probably close enlistment for the Regular Army through any other channel as selection could be made from those under compulsory training desirous of soldiering.

Here in Ceylon we lag sadly behind: we still stick to the old Volunteer system without having moved much in recent times. Lord Haldane's Territorial system, although in some respects not as successful as one could have wished, is excellent in that it provides the organization and a skeleton frame ready for manhood National Service. Moreover, it formed all over Great Britain strong and influential Committees which take the greatest interest in the Units entrusted to their care. But here in Ceylon there is no strong body of the public organised to represent the case of the Volunteers, nothing like the home County Associations which are able and determined to see that in return for efficiency they will receive proper treatment. We have the Governor to look to it is true and we have been fortunate in having Governors who are keen and interested, but think of the multitude of interests the Governor has to watch over! No Governor could be expected to devote a tithe of the time that these County Associations spend on the Territorials. The Military can always be counted upon to do all that they can to help us, but they are restricted by the local Regulations which confine the influence of the General and his Staff to training. There is no doubt some good reason for this restriction in Ceylon, but we know that there is nothing quite like it at home.

As far as the European Corps are concerned they might surely expect the Chamber of Commerce and the Planters' Association to take some interest in them and their welfare. The equivalent of the County Associations that in England manage the Territorials and provide their ways and means, could in Ceylon be found in a small Committee composed of the two European Members in Council, one member from the Chamber of Commerce and another from the Planters' Association, together with the Commanding Officers of the three Corps. The duties of

this Committee would be to see that the Ceylon Engineer Volunteers, the Ceylon Mounted Rifles and the Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps were properly provided with all equipment and funds and that the best means were taken to attract recruits. Such a Committee should be able to influence not only the Government but also the Proprietors of Estates upon which many of the Volunteers are employed. It could deal with the employers and arrange such matters as the management of the Estates when Volunteer Superintendents are mobilized for service. This last is a most important matter, and one which has not received very much attention at the hands of those whom it will most concern.

Re-organization of the local Forces should, I think, be on these lines. Instead of being under a Commandant who is responsible to the Governor the whole Volunteer Force should be placed under the General Officer Commanding; the present Chief Staff Officer to do the administrative work of the Command and a General Staff Officer added for general staff work which would include the work now done by the Staff Officer, Ceylon Volunteer Force; this General Staff Officer to be Secretary of the Associations, which should be run on lines similar to the County Associations at home. Every able-bodied Britisher would be compelled to serve for a certain period which should vary according to past service and record, and for this purpose the Diyatalawa and other Camps would be kept fully equipped and staffed for probably three months yearly to allow employees in one Firm or on one Estate to attend in turn for their training. All Units and Detachments to be divided into two reliefs, of which one only would be required on mobilization and would remain on duty for a fortnight, and then be replaced by No. 2 Relief. This would prevent a Firm or an Estate being deprived of all its employees at any one time. The District Planters' Associations should be asked to nominate someone, preferably an ex-Officer of one of the Services to act on mobilization as District Commandant; his duties would be to maintain order in his district under Martial Law and he would be given certain limited powers.

What has been written only applies to the European Corps in the Island for the reason that there is no difficulty in finding personnel for the other Units, as numbers available to recruit from are, in their case, unlimited.

W. H. BIDDULPH,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding C.P.R.C.

CEYLON LABOUR COMMISSION.

MALABAR CASTES.

THE TIYANS.

The Tiyans and Ullavans are the Malayalam toddy drawers of Malabar, Cochin and Travancore. It is supposed that originally these castes came from Ceylon, it has been recorded in many books that before and after the Christian Era there were invasions in the North of Ceylon by the races then inhabiting Southern India, and Malabar history tells us that these races again migrated from Ceylon

to parts of the West Coast of India, it is said that they brought with them the Coconut tree. The Tiyans and Ullavans cultivate the ground, and make good servants, follow different trades and professions if they are educated. They have several strange customs in connection with washing and changing their cloths.

The Tiyans look down a little on the Ullavans, a Tiyani will not eat rice cooked by an Ullavan, an Ullavan eating rice at a Tiyani's house must eat it in the verandah, and they must wash up every article they have used for their food.

The marriage ceremonies are very strange and complicated, the Tiyans of all classes follow the rule of Marumakkatayam, that means inheriting through females, from uncle to nephew.

Their food consists of rice with fish curry, their common drink is cungee, but they are also very fond of tea, lemonade and sodawater. The men's dress consists chiefly of a loin cloth which does not reach to the knee, a Madras handkerchief across the shoulders. The women wear a double loin cloth in the same way, but at one time were not allowed to wear anything across the breast.

They wear rings in their ears, gold and silver bracelets, if they can get them.

As regards religion they worship life in nature, and to them it is very mysterious, and they think that the growth of things is influenced by good and evil spirits, they do not like talking about this religion, they have no daily services in the Tiyani temples.

There is an annual celebration of puja commencing on the 15th November. The temple of Subramania at Palani in the Madura District attracts thousands of pilgrims from all parts of India, the Tiyans forming a large proportion, they carry offerings of milk, fruit and flowers and everyone carries a wooden arrangement decorated with coloured paper, it must be shaped like an arch as it is considered pleasing to the god. I have visited this temple myself and seen many thousands of pilgrims on their way there.

It surprises me very much to find so many well educated natives believe that this god has such wonderful powers, that a chicken can be restored to life after death, and milk can be made to boil without fire when put near the god.

As regards character the Tiyans have always been characterised for their perseverance, a large number of them are engaged in agricultural pursuits, many profitable industries in Malabar owe their success to the Tiyans, they are exceedingly clever as weavers and making coir rope from the coconut fibre, this is their hereditary industry, chiefly done by the women at home.

They are also clever as scholars and show literary taste, they know something of medicine, and their leaders are very ambitious and are keen that the young should be educated, some of them have been sent to Japan to learn things, and hostels are built for the use of the Tiyani youths for educational purposes.

G. S. DUPEN,
Asst. C. L. Commissioner.

CAMPING REPORT.

Chittoor, 17th March, 1913.

THE CEYLON LABOUR COMMISSIONER,

Trichinopoly.

FEBRUARY CAMP.

Dear Sir,

During this camp I visited 10 Agencies and inspected 9 of them, the Madras Transporting Agent being away on a bolting case at the time of visit. I travelled—

By Rail	...	1,680 miles
By Road	...	219 "
Total	...	1,899 "

On the 10th February I travelled to Nellore and inspected the Agency there the following day. On that day I received a wire from the Commissioner asking me to meet him at Chingleput on the 15th. During the following two days, therefore, I visited the villages around Nellore and left for Chingleput on the 14th. I met the Commissioner early on the morning of the 15th. We inspected the Chingleput Agency, travelled by train to Arkonam and inspected that Agency. On the 16th we travelled to Katpadi, inspected the Agency there and proceeded to my Headquarters at Chittoor, where we spent the night.

On the 17th we inspected Chittoor Agency and set out by train for Villupuram. On the 18th we inspected Villupuram Agency, and the Commissioner left for Trichinopoly. Having some enquiries to make I remained at Villupuram that day and started for Madras on the morning of the 19th at 2 a.m. Finding the Madras Agent away I set out the same evening for Coconada and arrived there in the forenoon of the 20th. I inspected Coconada Agency and left that night for Guntur, the Agency at which place I inspected on the following day. On the 22nd I remained at Guntur. The Guntur Agent has gone away somewhere and was said to be on tour in the district, but he had not sent me any programme for sanction and nobody knew where he was. He had, however, left everything properly in charge of his assistant.

On the morning of the 23rd I went to Narasarawupet by train to begin a tour through part of Guntur District. This tour was for the purpose of distributing notices and advertising Ceylon, finding out what crops are grown and with what success this year and what the people live on, and the possibilities of recruiting in the district.

From Narasarawupet I went to Nakarikallu by road, advertising Ceylon in the villages by the way, and stopped there for the night.

Here I got into conversation with a native who knew the district well and learned from him the Telugu names of the various crops grown here. I was shown a sample of each and then afterwards identified them by their Tamil names and the English ones when they existed.

The next day I went on to Pidugurula, where I breakfasted, and then, sending my saman to Dachepalli, I rode on to Pondugala on the bank of the Kistna River, which

here forms the Southern boundary of the Nizam's Dominions. I then returned to Dachepalli for the night.

The country round here is very stony and the crops, where they exist, are all dry. On the banks of a small tributary of the Kistna at Dachepalli, however, there is a little rice cultivation, and the spot is rather pretty compared to the dryness around. The buildings are nearly all of uncut stone: compounds and other divisions of property are marked by "dry stane dikes," exactly similar to those so common in Scotland.

I gathered that the people are, generally speaking, quiet and unsophisticated, but that raids from the neighbouring Nizam's Dominions were frequent and there was a good deal of crime. The Agents, also, of those people farther North, amongst whom there was a dearth of marriageable women often came down here to abduct or buy young girls to fill the blank.

Recruiting within the Nizam's Dominions is not very easy: the corrupt underlings of that police service give too much trouble to enterprise of this sort.

On the 25th I returned to Pidugurula and remained there for the night.

Having sent my heavy saman ahead the night before, early on the morning of the 26th I motored to Sattenapalli, where I had breakfast. Here I again gathered some information about the crops. In the afternoon I sent my carts on to Guntur and followed myself in the evening.

I think we managed to make some impression on the people. Both of my carts, often travelling at different times and even on different days, freely distributed notices among the natives and talked to them, and the connection between the carts and myself and motor was always carefully impressed.

The food here is mostly Cholam, Kambu and Varagu. I saw no Ragi and was told that it was seldom eaten. Here and there a little Rice is eaten. The chief crops appear to be Cotton and Chillies: I saw great quantities of the latter and heard that the crop had been a good one. It is, however, upon the large cotton crops that the prosperity of the ryots greatly depends. This crop has been a very poor one this year being, I understand, only about three-quarters of last year's in quantity. But last year's crop was exceptionally good. All the other crops, however, appear to have done very well.

Now is the very best time to recruit here. There is only one crop grown, and the poorer classes will have nothing to do and nothing to eat or very little until November. Coolies have already been taken by one or two estates from here in large batches, and I am certain there are plenty more to be had.

On the morning of the 28th I started for Cuddapah and inspected that Agency the next day. This is another place where there should be plenty of coolies to be had from March onwards.

I left Cuddapah the same day for Headquarters.

There was nobody recruiting in the Guntur District while I was there, and very few in Cuddapah District. Those who have taken coolies from either of these districts

should send them back at once. I am sure that large connections could be formed by natives of these parts.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. RUTHERFORD LEE,
Assistant Ceylon Labour Commissioner,
Ceylon Labour Commission,
Trichinopoly, 28th March, 1913.

THE SECRETARY,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

DEAR Sir,

I enclose for the information of your Committee, extracts from the Inspection Reports of the Deputy Commissioner, Salem, and Assistant Commissioners of Chittoor and Palghat Circles, on Dharmapuri, Namakal, Atur, Guntur, Arkonam, Chittoor, Katpadi, Chingleput, Karar, Palghat and Cannanore Agencies under the heading "General Information."

Yours faithfully,
H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,
Ceylon Labour Commissioner.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

KARUR AGENCY.

I think this Agency will again show an increase in the numbers of coolies registered this year, 1912 showed a substantial increase over 1911. The recruiting prospects are good now.

NAMAKAL AGENCY.

The harvesting season is now practically over and we may expect a steady flow of coolies from now onwards. I would like to see a great many more kanganies working, however, and in view of the excellent recruiting prospects strongly advise estates who have trustworthy kanganies and coolies from the Namakal Taluk to send them across to recruit without delay.

DHARMAPURI AGENCY.

Up to date this year only 48 coolies have been despatched, which is only slightly in excess of last year's figures. Of these 48, however, no less than 44 have been despatched since the appointment of the new Agent last month, and the improvement is therefore greater than appears at first sight. I still confidently look forward to a record year.

Here as at Namakal and Atur there are not nearly enough kanganies working, and it is to be hoped that a lot more will be sent over to recruit at an early date.

ATUR AGENCY.

Coolies are now coming in steadily and already the Agency figures are in excess of last year. This increase would be more marked if all the kanganies who are working in the Taluk brought their coolies to Atur for registration. A fair number of them have A. Forms for the Salem Agency, and are not prepared to wait to have them transferred. The recruiting prospects are excellent, and I look forward with confidence to a record year.

GUNTUR AGENCY.

Not a single person from Ceylon has visited this Agency since the 28th of November last, and yet when kanganies do come here they nearly always take away coolies in large batches. The past three months are, of course, the very worst for recruiting, but it is to be hoped that those estates that took away the large gangs will send back some of the coolies to recruit now that conditions are favourable. Delta and Delwita estates have taken large

numbers from here. The 63 coolies at the beginning of last year were taken in two gangs, and Delwita took away 90 coolies in September last. I think the Superintendents of all these estates might be looked up and asked if the coolies are doing well. I am confident that many coolies can be got here by the right kind of kangany.

CHINGLEPUT AGENCY.

The figures here are lower than last year, but not enough to be disappointing since the crops have been so much better than last year.

KATPADI AGENCY.

The number of kanganies recruiting in connection with this Agency is encouraging. During the harvest season these have, of course, not been very successful, but I think the Agency will do very well this year.

PALGHAT AGENCY.

The numbers of coolies that pass through this Agency yearly is on the increase, and labour is always available if estates want Malayalees, and Malayalee kanganies are sent to recruit.

CHITTOOR AGENCY.

Only one kangany has so far made use of this Agency, though I have received many postcards from Trichinopoly stating that kanganies are coming to recruit in Chittoor District. The existence of this Agency is not yet well enough known in Ceylon.

ARKONAM AGENCY.

The figures of this Agency are still disappointing, but there has been no retrogression since my last visit, and the busy months may see a great improvement.

CANNANORE AGENCY.

This Agency is certain to be a success later on, up to date only one or two kanganies have been to Cannanore, I hope to find a large number going there shortly, estates that require Malayalam labour should be advised to send their men to North Malabar.

TINNEVELLY AGENCY.

The Agency figures for the first quarter of this year show a slight improvement over last year, 377 coolies been despatched as against 352 for the same period last year. Taking into consideration the exceptionally good rains that have fallen in the District and the brisk local demand which, I was given to understand, existed these figures are satisfactory.

H. FARQUHARSON.

Ceylon Labour Commission,
Trichinopoly, 8th April, 1913.

THE SECRETARY,
Planters' Association of Ceylon, Kandy.

DEAR Sir,

COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1912.

I am in receipt of "Planting Gazette" No. 2 containing my Report as above. On page 8, under the heading of "A. Forms," I shall be glad if you will note that the paragraph reads incorrectly and has been misprinted by the publishers. I enclose the paragraph in its original form for correction in your next Gazette.

Yours faithfully,
H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,
Ceylon Labour Commissioner.

[Paragraph referred to]

A FORMS:—I have found it necessary to redraft this form in order to facilitate payments, and at the same time giving increased safeguards to the Drawers against fraud or various kinds. In some cases where complaints against Agents have been made as to payments withheld the defence has been put up that the payment has been made to an individual who had impersonated the recruiter in whose favour the A. Form was drawn. The new system will, I trust, prevent as far as possible any possibility of fraud.

Ceylon Labour Commission,
Trichinopoly, 10th April, 1913.

THE SECRETARY,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

Dear Sir,

I forward herewith for inclusion in the *Planting Gazette* copy of March Camping Report received from Mr. J. H. Rutherford Lee, Assistant Commissioner, in charge of Chittoor Circle.

Yours faithfully,
H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,
Ceylon Labour Commissioner.

Chittoor, 7th April, 1913.

THE CEYLON LABOUR COMMISSIONER,
Trichinopoly.

Dear Sir,

MARCH CAMP.

During this camp I inspected 4 Agencies and travelled—

By Rail	...	266 miles
By Road	..	111 „

On the 18th of March I left for Madras and inspected that Agency on the following day.

On the 21st I went by train to Chingleput and inspected that Agency. I left by train the same day for Villupuram.

I inspected Villupuram Agency the following day and remained there also on the 22nd to bring my tappal and reports to date. I also watched the work of the new transporting Agent here and believe him to be a very energetic and conscientious worker. The coolies also give a very good account of him and say he is very attentive. I found that the Agent has duly prepared a specimen of lease for a two years lease of the new building that I had inspected on my last visit, but that the landlord was no longer willing to give the house on lease. Please see my report on Villupuram Agency. The Estimate produced for building a compound wall at the old premises was Rs. 200, and I do not think it is worth while spending this if we can secure a more suitable building. I saw another quite suitable building which is likely to be available shortly.

On the 24th I left by train for Dindivanam to begin my tour across country there. Here, however, I found it impossible to get carts except at exorbitant prices. I should not think this was a very good place to get *bona fide* coolies. The next morning I went to Achrapackam by train and from there to Wandewash by road. In Wandewash I tried to find Silvaland Ponnen and Halgolla Andiyappen and heard that they had both gone back to Ceylon. On my arrival here I found a Roman Catholic Priest, a Frenchman, who was very interested in what I told him about the Ceylon Labour Commission. I had supper with him that evening, and he came to see me at the travellers' bungalow the following day. He told me that price of

food is very heavy and that food itself will become scarce very shortly. The priest was very interested in the welfare of the poorer classes within his district. He was very concerned about the imminent distress among his people when food supplies ran out, and expressed himself very glad to have heard about Ceylon and the condition of work and the treatment of the labour there. I gave him notices and told him that we would be very glad if he would use the Commission to keep in touch on behalf of their relatives with any of his people who have gone or may go to Ceylon. His interest in the poor people appears quite irrespective of their faith. I received an application recommended afterwards by the priest for the post of School Master on an estate by a man who is a school master in Wandewash at Rs. 10 a month, and says he is unable to support himself and his wife owing to the increasing cost of food. He is a Protestant and his wife a Roman Catholic. His address is as follows: M. J. Swaminathan, Head Master, Arcot American Mission School, Wandewash. Father Battiste is the only European in Wandewash.

I left Wandewash on the morning of the 27th for Arni by way of Cheyar Anicut. Along this road, which is a very bad one, the people seemed never to have heard of Ceylon except as a mere name. I was told that no kangannies ever come to these parts in one village. Several of the people had gone to Natal and have never been heard of again. They were interested to know that Ceylon was so close and that coolies were not bound down by any agreement to stay for a number of years. I should think that all the country between Wandewash and Cheyar Anicut would make an excellent recruiting ground. In Arni I tried to find two kangannies, but could not hear of them. Arni is a big place. There are interesting old forts both at Wandewash and Arni.

The next day I left Arni for Katpadi. The people along this road know more about Ceylon. I have been in several of the villages nearer Katpadi before and at that time did not think recruiting prospects good, but they are much better now, though there is fairly good second crop standing. This will be harvested in May, when prospects should be very good here.

After inspecting Katpadi I took train for Chittoor in the evening.

Yours faithfully,

J. H. RUTHERFORD LEE,

Assistant Ceylon Labour Commissioner.

TATAPARAI EMIGRATION CAMP REPORT. VISITED MARCH 15TH, 1913.

In company with Dr. Prins, the Medical Officer, I went round and inspected this Camp. I found the premises exceedingly clean and tidy. The food supplied appeared to be excellent and the general arrangements for the segregation of the coolies are good. At the time of my visit there were a fair number of coolies awaiting embarkation to Ceylon. I received no complaints and everything appeared to be in order. A good water supply is obtained by pipes from the Station. There are a number of bouti-

ques on the premises under the supervision of Dr. Prins, where the coolies can obtain goods at normal rates. Good sodawater is made under close supervision. An Office for the Ceylon Labour Commission is within the camp, and relations between my officers and camp authorities appear to be good. I consider the arrangements for the coolies passing through Tataparai camp under Dr. Prins' supervision have little to be desired.

There is ample accommodation for all the coolies and the camp is sectionally divided up on a well-thought-out system to facilitate segregation.

Yours faithfully,

H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,
Ceylon Labour Commissioner.
Unofficial Visitor, C. E. C.

COMMISSIONER'S NOTES.

TUTICORIN DUPLICATE CARDS.—Although these cards are being fairly generally used there appears to be misconception in some quarters as to their utility. The Cards were designed to protect the in-coming kangany and cooly from Ceylon, from extortion at Tuticorin on disembarkation. They also ensure that the kangany or cooly will arrive at his recruiting centre within the shortest time possible. A further good point about these Cards is that they remove the necessity for the superintendent to advance anything appreciable in the way of cash on the estate prior to the departure of the kangany or cooly on his recruiting expeditions—the pre-advance being given on the A. Form only, ensures also that the kangany or cooly in order to obtain this will call at the nearest agency to his village prior to his recruiting operations. This enables me to register him on arrival, and, as far as possible, keep in touch with his movements.

I have several times on passing through Tuticorin visited the Feeding House which is under the control of the Commission, and many kanganies and coolies have expressed to me their appreciation of the arrangements made which provided for them a good meal, fresh water, and prompt despatch to their villages without subjecting them to the extortion which has been their experience in the past. On the 7th April a kangany in my Depot complained bitterly that on passing through Tuticorin he was robbed and beaten by a certain hotel keeper and that had he had one of these Commission Cards, he would have been protected from anything of the sort.

The arrangements that I have made for the protection of these in-coming kanganies and coolies from Ceylon is so far working satisfactorily, but I would like to see far more estates making use of the Cards. I would mention that it is necessary that these Cards should be filled in with the names of the coolies who are carrying them, as without these particulars and the signature of the superintendent, it is impossible for me to honour them. There have been one or two cases lately where coolies have brought these cards without the inclusion of the necessary particulars and the fact that it has not been possible to extend them the privilege the Card carries, has caused a certain amount of dis-

appointment. Once it is realised how beneficial to all concerned the arrangements are the percentage of coolies carrying Cards from Ceylon will, I am sure, very largely increase.

AGENCIES.—The following agencies have been closed as from 1st April:—HUBLI, COCONADA AND TIRUR.

With regard to the first named for some time past this Agency contrary to expectations which I have referred to in my Annual Report, has been receiving little or no support. It is the only Agency which is not within the borders of the Madras Presidency. The Mahrattas drawn from the districts around Hubli do not appear to be highly satisfactory for estate work, judging from the reports I have received from superintendents, but in any case if their recruitment is to be persevered with it can be undertaken for the present from the Guntakkal Agency.

With regard to the Cocanada Agency, it has not been a success. It is a seaport and is infested with Penang recruiters. If extensive recruiting is to be undertaken as far north as Cocanada an Agency should be opened farther inland where the influence of the Penang recruiter would not be so severely felt.

TIRUR.—This Agency which was opened last year has not justified its existence, and I consider the Agencies at Palghat and Cannanore will cater for the small amount of recruiting that is being undertaken in Malabar at the present time.

With regard to recruiting in this country there is no doubt that figures could be substantially enhanced if more effort was made in Ceylon by those who already have Malayalam connection. My Agents complain that there are plenty of coolies to be had if only kanganies were sent over. It would be preferable to send over relations of Malayalamans now working in Ceylon.

A FORMS.—These new forms will shortly be circulated to subscribing estates. I am sorry there has been some delay in getting them printed according to requirements, which will not recur.

RECRUITING NOTES.

Returns for the first quarter of the year—Total 12,239, as against 10,710, an increase of 14.28 per cent. This increase may be considered satisfactory and encouraging taking into consideration the fact that crops generally throughout the recruiting districts have been exceedingly good this year, and harvesting is later in many districts than is usually the case.

In the Headquarters Circle, TANJORE shows a substantial increase on last year, a curious fact considering the wonderful prosperity of this district. On the other hand, PUDUCOTTAH shows a distinct falling off of something like 35 per cent. MANAPARAI at the first quarter has recruited 536 coolies as against 349 last year.

CHITTOOR CIRCLE.—VILLUPURAM shows a very satisfactory increase similarly to a less extent CHINGLEPUT, KATPADI remains about the same. NELLORE, although little recruiting is being done there, shows an increase of 70 per cent. as

compared with the same date last year. CHITTOOR has done practically nothing, but advertising had been undertaken extensively by the Agent and should bear good fruit when kanganyas are sent over.

MADURA CIRCLE.—Tataparai shows a large increase. TINNEVELLY is about the same as last year. The Coastal Agencies AMMAPATNAM, TONDI and PAMBAN show a slight falling off. MADURA itself and SOUTH MADURA, Recruiting here has been very disappointing, and it may be inferred that the extensive cotton industry and demand for mill labour is having an adverse effect on recruiting coupled with the amount of land which is being brought under cultivation by irrigation of the Perriar Dam. On the other hand Dindigul and North Madura show an increase of about 40 per cent. on the figures of last year in spite of an exceedingly late harvest.

SALEM CIRCLE.—SALEM itself shows a slight decrease. But the minor Agencies are doing fairly well, and the total of this circle shows a large increase of about 50 per cent. BANGALORE agency shows a slight increase, but progress in Mysore is very slow.

PALGHAT CIRCLE.—I have previously referred to the progress made in the vicinity of Dindigul. KARUR remains the same as last year. ERODE shows a substantial increase.

With regard to MALABAR agencies, PALGHAT exhibits an improvement of 245 coolies against 158 of the same date last year. CANNANORE, the new agency, has made a start, but requires more support from Ceylon connections. I append a note from the Assistant Ceylon Labour Commissioner.

With regard to recruiting in Malabar, estates in Ceylon having Malayalam connections would do well to persevere and send over relatives of those recruited to further enhance their labour forces.

From this review of recruiting during the first quarter, it appears that the most favourable places in the Tamil districts from which to draw labour are Tanjore, Manaparai, Dindigul (North Madura) Villupuram in South Arcot and Salem. For Telugu recruiting, Nellore, Cuddapah and perhaps Guntur, where prospects are well reported on by the Assistant Commissioner. So far this year Guntur Agency has not received any support.

The following is the report from the Cuddapah Agent with regard to his Agency:—

“The best recruiting season in the year is passing away as no kangany is sent here. All food grains are being sold very dear, especially rice is sold at 3½ measures per rupee.”

Note from the Assistant Commissioner *re* the agencies in Malabar.

“For some reason or other, there are very few kanganyas recruiting in Malabar this year. The Cannanore agent says that there are any amount of coolies available, but no kanganyas at his agency. The Straits Agency is sending from 20 to 35 coolies every week. Any estates requiring Malayalam labour should be advised of this fact.

If the Malayalee is a success in the Straits, I cannot understand why he should not do well in Ceylon.”

COMMISSIONER'S CAMPING.

I started on a short tour mainly for Agency inspection on the 12th February inspecting MADURA AND DINDIGUL Agencies. I returned to Headquarters on 14th February and then continued my tour on the 15th to CHINGLEPUT, ARKONAM, KATPADI, CHITTOOR and VILLUPURAM, returning to Headquarters on the 19th February.

MADURA.—I found this Agency in very fair order and the books correct and well kept. The Agent, Mahamed Yakoob, is a retired Subadar of the 73rd Carnatic Infantry. He has an excellent record, and I consider will become a useful officer when he has had more experience of his work. The number of coolies passed through this Agency in 1912 was 5,263 as compared with 3,293 in 1911, showing an increase of 1,970 coolies. This, I think, may be considered satisfactory seeing the adverse conditions which we have to contend in SOUTH MADURA, viz., an extensive and growing COTTON INDUSTRY coupled with the irrigation of the Periar Dam. During my visit to MADURA I had the opportunity of going round MESSRS. HARVEY & Co.'s large COTTON MILLS, and it was most interesting and instructive to see how the Tamil Cooly has taken to work of this description. MESSRS. HARVEY & Co., who have the latest and most up-to-date machinery employ no less than 3,000 coolies in MADURA itself, and they also have large Mills at TUTICORIN, the output of Cotton from these Mills is enormous. I understand that other Firms are erecting Mills in MADURA, and that the Industry is growing very rapidly. It is in centres like this that it should be realized that Ceylon recruiting may have its limitations.

The Madura Town is celebrated for the temples, which, I believe, are amongst the first in South India. The Superintendents visiting MADURA would do well to note the following extracts from the SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY GUIDE, which reads as follows:—

“MADURA:—(Population 134,130). This city has been called—“The Athens of Southern India.” The principal temple of Madura is lofty and impressive, and exhibits specimens of Hindu architecture, which the tourist should by no means neglect to study. Thirumalnaick's palace includes several Courts and public offices and will repay inspection, it being a unique piece of masonry with walls of enormous strength and solidity. Passengers who are making the pilgrimage to Ramasweram should change at Madura. Sleeping accommodation is provided at the Station. Messrs. Spencer & Co. have a refreshment room here—there is also a refreshment room for Indians.”

From MADURA the next day I proceeded to DINDIGUL. I examined the books of the Agency finding them in first-class order, being exceedingly neat and well kept. The general conduct of this Agency leaves little to be desired. The Agent, Mr. Veerasawmy Naidu, is possessed of considerable local knowledge and has, I understand, been offered the Honorary appointment of Magistrate. Complaints as to the conduct of his Agency are very few. The

figures of last year as compared with those of 1911 are as follows:—

1911 ...	1,935
1912 ...	3,035

which show an increase of 1,100, which is very satisfactory. I attribute a good deal of this increase to the Agent himself, who has a good knowledge of the country, and has evidently obtained popularity for his Agency. The Agent informs me that labour is available in the PALANI DISTRICT which is a very dry one. Crops are however fairly good this year, and the Recruiting Season will therefore be somewhat late. Rice is dear, being 4 measures for the Rupee. Over 100 kanganyas have already arrived at the DINDIGUL Agency this year, so prospects for this Agency at least are promising. I would recommend that those estates that have connections in the vicinity of DINDIGUL should lose no time in sending over their kanganyas. One good point about this Agency is that out of the large number of coolies passed through during 1912 not more than fifty bolted after registration, which speaks very highly for the discrimination of the Agent and discounts, in a great measure, the few complaints made by kanganyas. The Agent suggests that in these old recruiting districts the individual cooly coming over to recruit is not likely to be so successful as the good stamp of kangany as he very seldom has anything appreciable in the shape of funds at his disposal, and has not the status that a kangany of good standing has in his village. I have instructed this Agent to make a special point of advertising Ceylon in the DINDIGUL AND NORTH MADURA DISTRICTS, including PALANI where he advises me that labour is fairly profuse. I was impressed with the Agent's intelligence and his interest for the success of his Agency.

On the 15th after passing through Trichinopoly I proceeded to CHINGLEPUT. The Agent here is a pensioned officer, viz., Subadar Mr. Jeganayakalu Naidu. His office was in good order and his books neatly and well kept and the premises very clean. The figures for last year as compared with that of 1911 are as follows:—

1911 ...	2,926
1912 ...	3,812

showing an increase of 886. The harvest has been good in this district, but the price of rice is high. Coolies are coming in fairly well, but did not show an appreciable increase on last year. The Agent has a very good record, and is one of the best officers in the service. There are many Penang and other Recruiters in CHINGLEPUT and rejection of professionally recruited coolies is a matter of every day occurrence and much depends upon the integrity of the Agent in this respect.

From CHINGLEPUT I proceeded to ARKONAM which is in charge of another pensioned officer who has lately entered the service, and who is a late Subadar Major of the 73rd Carnatic Infantry who came to me with strong recommendations from his superior officers. His office and books were in very fair order and reflected credit upon his short tenure of office. ARKONAM, like CHINGLEPUT, appears at first sight a very desolate place, but I was informed that crops which are chiefly dry were good, and at the time of my visit had not been completely harvested. Prospects for this year are fairly good, the prices of rice being about the same as that of CHINGLEPUT. Coolies pay: men 3 to 4 annas, women 2 to 3 annas, in addition

to which they receive one meal during harvest time. The diet is chiefly Ragi, Cholam and Cambu. There are Penang, Fiji and Singapore Depôts and, like Chingleput, the Professional Recruiter is much in evidence.

Proceeding to KATPADI on the 16th February, I inspected the Agency and found everything in order, and the office neat and tidy. Recruiting for the short period of the year to date was practically the same as last year. The figures of this Agency have slightly fallen off since 1910, which were 5,157, in 1911, 4,490, and in 1912, 4,180. This Agency before the withdrawal of certificates from the Professional Recruiter and the reduction of the A. Form did a large business in professionally recruited coolies, and I have lately had evidence that a certain amount of this is still going on. I have, therefore, deemed it expedient to transfer the Agent to an Agency near TRICHINOPOLY pending investigation. This Agent is a pensioned officer, also of the 73rd Carnatic Infantry, and has a service in the Commission of five years. In addition to the Agent there is a Platform Inspector to look after the coolies passing through this Junction to prevent them from being interfered with by Professional Recruiters. There are Depôts for Penang, Fiji and Singapore here, and it appears that Katpadi like Chingleput and Arkonam is very much exploited by the Professional Recruiters. Bolting after registration was very prevalent at this Agency last year, and there have been many complaints from Superintendents as to the stamp of cooly being passed through the Agency. I trust that with the new Agent, matters will improve. Recruiting Prospects are fairly good, but estates should endorse upon their Recruiting Certificates whether or not they give free passages to coolies coming to Ceylon. The staple diet of the cooly in the Katpadi district is Rice and Ragi.

Rates of pay: men 4 annas, women 2 annas, and 6 pies.

From KATPADI I proceeded to CHITTOOR which is the Headquarters of the Assistant Commissioner of the Chittoor Circle, I inspected the new Agency which has been lately established. Owing to the absence of kanganyas recruiting in and around Chittoor the Agent has been spending his time advertising Ceylon in the surrounding districts. He appears to be intelligent and keen on his work. Here again Penang and Fiji are exploiting the country. The agent on taking train journeys takes the opportunity of travelling 3rd class to explain to coolies the advantage of emigration to Ceylon. The Assistant Commissioner has a very good bungalow in Chittoor, which I consider is one of the nicest residential places for any officer in the Commission. I was struck with the cultivation between Katpadi and Chittoor. Estates requiring Telugu coolies would do well to send to this Agency, as I have every hope that the advertisement now being undertaken will bear good fruit in the future.

From CHITTOOR I travelled back to Trichinopoly via Villupuram. The books of this Agency were not in as good order as I should like to see. The Agent has, I think, been somewhat badly served by his subordinates, and here I have instituted changes. The figures for 1912 as against 1911 show a slight increase, and this increase has been further enhanced during 1913. At the time of my visit the harvest was in hand which was chiefly paddy. A large trade is done here also in ground-nuts. The prospects for recruiting are distinctly good and the Agent informed me that coolies were available in Tindivanam Taluq. Rice is dear, the diet

of the coolies being chiefly Ragi and Rice. Owing to pressure of work at Head Office, this, my first tour of inspection, could not be protracted and was somewhat hurried. The impression generally I got on travelling through the various districts was the surprising apparent prosperous conditions of the country traversed by the railway, but no doubt well away from the railway line the condition of the cooly is not so good. Harvests generally this year have been better than usual.

From VILLUPURAM passing through Tanjore to TRICHINOPOLY I went through miles and miles of cultivated and highly prosperous country. The crops were all in

course of harvesting, mostly wet and seemed to be abundant, and there was little or no land which was not bearing grain. Tanjore is, of course, one of the most prosperous districts in the Presidency, but in spite of that as I have mentioned previously recruiting figures for this year show a considerable increase. I travelled from Madura to Chittoor and back via Villupuram to Trichinopoly 679 miles, and my journey was most instructive. I have been able to get into personal touch and know some of my Agents which it is so necessary for me to do.

H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,
Ceylon Labour Commissioner.

MONTHLY REPORT ON RECRUITING PROSPECTS FOR MARCH, 1913.

District.	Taluk.	Crop Prospects	Local Wages.		Recruiting Prospects.	Remarks.
			Men. Annas.	Women. Annas.		
Trichy Circle.						
Trichy	Musiri	Good	4 to 5	1½ to 2	Not good	Crops are being harvested and coolies find sufficient local labour.
	Kulitalai	Fair	4	3	Fair to good	The crops are being harvested and a scarcity of water is being felt. Recruiting prospects are good.
	Perambalore	do	do	do	do	
Tanjore	Arantangy	Fair	4	3	Not good	Crops are being harvested and coolies find sufficient local labour.
	Kumbakonam					
	Mannargudi					
	Mayavaram					
	Nannilam					
	Negapatam					
	Papanasam					
	Pattucotai					
	Siyaly					
	Tanjore					
Tirutarapoondi					Prospects have since improved <i>vide my notes</i> .	
Puducottah State	Thirumayam	Not good	5	2	do	do
	Alangudy	Fair	4	2	do	
	Kulathur	Good	4	2	do	
Madura Circle.						
Madura	Madura	Good	6	3	Good	On the whole recruiting prospects in this district are fair only.
	Melur	do	4	2	do	
	Periakulam	Fair	4	2½	Fair	
	Nelacottah	do	4½	2	do	
	Tirumangalam	do	4	2	do	
Rannad	Tirupatur	do	4	3	Fair	Good do
	Sivaganga	do	do	2½	do	
	Ramnad	do	do	2½	do	
	Paramagudi	do	do	2½	do	
	Kanuthy	do	do	2½	do	
	Tirupuvanam	do	do	2½	do	
	Manamadura	do	do	2½	do	

H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,

C. L. C.

H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,
C. L. C.

MONTHLY REPORT ON RECRUITING PROSPECTS FOR MARCH, 1913.

District.	Taluk.	Crop Prospects.	Local Wages.		Recruiting Prospects.	Remarks.
			Men.	Women.		
			Annas.	Annas.		
Tinnevely ...	Nangunari ...	Fair	4	3	do	
	Sankarankoil ...	do	4	3	do	do
	Tenkasi ...	Good	4	3	do	
	Ambasamudram ...	do	3½	3	do	do
	Tinnevely ...	Fair	4½	4	do	
	Srivaikondam ...	do	4½	3	do	
	Tiruchendur ...	do	3½	3	do	
	Koilpatti ...	do	4½	2½	do	

H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,

C. L. C.

Chittoor Circle.

Chittoor ...	Chittoor ...	Paddy, Ragi & Sugar Cane	3 to 4	2 to 3	Fair	Several excursions have been made in this district lately, and there seems to be plenty of labour to be had. The people are rather shy of going at first, and they still have food left over from the harvest.
	Kalahasti ...	Paddy, Ragi & Cumbu, Fair			do	
	Karvatnagar ...	do			do	
	Palmanair ...	Paddy & Ragi			Indifferent	
		Good			Bad	
	Vayalpad ...	do			do	
	Madanapalli ...	do			do	
	Punganur ...	Paddy, Cumbu, Ragi & Cholan			Indifferent	
	Chendragiri ...	Fair			do	

Tamil Districts.

North Arcot	Arcot ...	Paddy & Ragi	Bad	There is a smaller second harvest coming on in N. Arcot and Chingleput Districts, which may cause recruiting to lag a little for two or three weeks. When this is over the best recruiting season will begin.
	Vellore ...	do	...	...	Good
	Gudiyatam ...	do	...	...	do
	Walaja ...	do	...	...	do
	Polur ...	do	4	2	Bad	
			with food			
	Tirupatur ...	do	...	...	Indifferent
	Arni ...	do	...	...	Bad
	Tiruvannamalai ...	Paddy, Ragi & Tobacco	...	...	Indifferent
	Wandiwash ...	Paddy & Ragi	...	...	Good
Chingleput ...	Arkonam ...	Fair	4 to 5	2 to 3	Good	
	Cheyar ...	do	4 to 5	2 to 3	Fair	
	Chingleput ...					
	Saidapet ...					
	Ponneri ...					
	Madurantakam ...					
	Conjeevaram ...					
	Tiruvallur ...					

MONTHLY REPORT ON RECRUITING PROSPECTS FOR MARCH, 1913.

District.	Taluq.	Crop Prospects.	Local Wages.		Recruiting. Prospects.	Remarks.
			Men.	Women.		
			Annas.	Annas.		
Telugu Districts.						
Vizagapatam	Ankapalli ...	Kambu and Cholan	4	3	Indifferent	The Agency that served this District has been shut down for the present.
	Yelamanchi ...	do	do	do	do	
	Vizianagarem ...	Ragi & Cholan	do	do	do	
	Chiparapalli ...	Paddy	do	do	do	
	Bemanpatam ...	Cholan, Cumbu & Paddy	6	do	do	
	Gazapatipuram ...	do	do	do	do	
	Palconda ...	do	do	do	do	
	Bobilie ...	do	do	do	do	
Parvatipuram ...	do	do	do	do		
Godavari	Peddapuram ...	Paddy and Cumbu	do	do	do	In Godavari very little proper recruiting can be done at any time.
	Ramachandrapuram ...	do	do	do	do	
	Amalapur ...	do	do	do	do	
	Tuni ...	do	6	3	Indifferent	
	Coconada ...	do	do	do	do	
	Pithapuram ...	do	do	do	do	
	Rajamandry ...	do	do	do	do	
Guntur	Guntur ...	Cholan and Cumbu	4 to 5	2 to 3	Fair	In Guntur and Cuddapah Districts there is but one harvest and this is now over. There is certain to be a lot of distress in these two districts during the next six months. The poorer classes live a half-starved existence.
	Sattanapally ...	do	do	do	do	
	Narasarowpet ...	do	do	do	do	
	Vinkonda ...	do	do	do	do	
	Gurizala ...	Cholan and Cumbu good, Cotton bad,	do	do	do	
	Repallay ...	Paddy good	do	do	do	
	Bapatla ...	do	do	do	do	
Cuddapah	Cuddapah ...	Only one Crop	4	2	Bad	
	Pulivendla ...	do	3	do	Moderate	
	Kamalapuram ...	do	do	do	do	
	Raychoty ...	do	do	do	do	
	Rajampet ...	do	do	do	do	
	Sidhout ...	Bad	4	do	Good	
	Badvel ...	do	3	do	do	
	Proddatur ...	Only one Crop	6	do	Bad	
Jamalamedugu ...	do	3	2	Moderate		

J. H. RUTHERFORD LEE,

Asst. Ceylon Labour Commissioner.

H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,

C. L. C.

MONTHLY REPORT ON RECRUITING PROSPECTS FOR MARCH, 1913.

District.	Taluq.	Crop Prospects.	Local Wages.		Recruiting Prospects.	Remarks.
			Men.	Women.		
			Annas.	Annas.		
Karur Agency.						
Trichinopoly...	Karur	...	3 to 4 2 to 2-6-0		Very few coolies available in March.	The harvesting is practically over now, and April should be a good month for recruiting. I don't think enough kanganies go to the Karur Agency. Dharapuram Taluk is certainly quite a good recruiting ground.
Coimbatore ...	Dharapuram	...				
		The Agent has not given me this information, but I gather that the crops have been fair.				

G. S. DUPEN,
Asst. C. L. Commissioner,
27th March, 1913.

H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,
C. L. C.

Erode Agency.

Coimbatore ...	Erode	...	3 to 4 2 to 0-2-6		Recruiting prospects are good now, harvesting is over and there is very little work for the coolies.	Plague is a great trouble in the Coimbatore District, as the coolies have to be detained for so many days at Trichy owing to plague supervision, this must mean the loss of many coolies.
	Bhavani	...				
	Gobichettyipoliem	...				
	Satyamangalam	...				
	Palladam	...				
	Peria Dhara-	...				
	puram	...				
	Avanashi	...				
	Udamalpet	...				
	Pollachi	...				
	Kollegal	...				
		Crops have been fair.				

G. S. DUPEN,
Asst. C. L. Commissioner,
27th March, 1913.

H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,
C. L. C.

Palghat and Tirur Agencies.

Malabar ...	Palghat	...	3 to 4 2 to 0-2-6		Recruiting prospects are good in Palghat, Walawanad, Calicut, Chirakal and Ponani Taluks. Very good in Kottayam Taluk.	There is a great dearth of kanganies in Malabar at present, and any estate in need of Malayalam labour would be wise to send kanganies.
	Walawanad	...				
	Calicut	...				
	Chirakal	...				
	Ponani	...				
	Kottayam	...				
	Ernad	...				
	Kurumbranad	...				
		Crops have been good, the fields are being prepared for the monsoon now.				

G. S. DUPEN,
Asst. C. L. Commissioner,
27th March, 1913.

H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,
C. L. C.

MONTHLY REPORT ON RECRUITING PROSPECTS FOR MARCH, 1913.

District.	Talug.	Crop Prospects.	Local Wages.		Recruiting Prospects.	Remarks.
			Men.	Women.		
			Annas.	Annas.		
Dindigul Agency.						
Madura	Dindigul	...	Good	4 to 0-4-6 0-2-6 to 3	Good	This Agency had registered up to the 26th instant more coolies than the whole of the corresponding month in 1912. The harvesting in the Palani Taluk is not yet over, it is probable that April will be a good month for recruiting.
	Palani	...				

G. S. DUPEN,
Asst. C. L. Commissioner,
23rd March, 1913.

H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,
C. L. C.

— NOTICE. —

Proprietors' Labour Federation.

In view of the proposed new rules of the Federation, the Committee would welcome the advice of Superintendents who have extended personal experience of keeping coolies' Accounts.

JOHN STILL,
Secretary, P. L. F.

RULES OF THE PROPRIETORS' LABOUR FEDERATION OF CEYLON.

1. The Association shall be styled "THE PROPRIETORS' LABOUR FEDERATION OF CEYLON."

2. The objects for which the Association is formed are—

- (1) To check the steady increase which has of late occurred in Coast Advances in connection with labour already imported into the Island, and to bring about a gradual reduction of such advances with as little loss as possible.
- (2) To encourage the recruiting of Coolies from the Coast, and generally to protect the interests of members employing imported labour.
3. Any proprietor of an estate of a larger extent than 10 acres may become a member of the Federation by registering such estate in the books of the Federation and shall pay a subscription of 5 cents per cultivated acre per

annum, and shall furnish to the Secretary the following particulars of such estate :—

- (a) Name of Estate,
- (b) Name of Proprietor,
- (c) Extent of cultivated area under each different product,

and shall continue subject to rules Nos. 7 and 28 to be a member so long as any estate belonging to him remains in the Register. The Secretary shall keep a book to be called "THE REGISTER" in which he shall enter the particulars aforementioned.

4. A member owning more than one estate shall not be compelled to register all such estates owned by him, but shall be bound as a member of the Federation in respect of such estate or estates as he shall register.

5. All estates so registered shall be deemed federated estates.

6. Any member not resident in Ceylon shall nominate an agent resident in Ceylon to represent him while so non-resident, and every Limited Company (being a member of the Federation) shall nominate an agent resident in Ceylon to represent such Company.

Such nomination shall be made in writing, and in the case of a Limited Company under its common seal, to the Secretary who shall enter the same in the Register, and every agent so nominated shall have all the rights and privileges of a member.

7. No member shall be entitled to cancel the registration of any federated estate within two years of such registration. After the expiry of the said period of two years, any member may cancel such registration by giving six months notice in writing to the Secretary of his intention so to do.

8. Payment of subscription shall be made to the Secretary on or before the 31st day of January in each year.

9. A Chairman and a Committee consisting of twenty members shall be chosen by the vote of the majority of the

members present at the first meeting of the Federation and at each annual meeting thereafter and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are appointed. The outgoing Chairman and Members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election. The Chairmen of the Planters' Association of Ceylon and of the Chamber of Commerce, Colombo, shall be members of the Committee *ex-officio*.

10. The Chairman, or in his absence any member who may be elected by those present, shall take the Chair at all meetings of the Federation. The Chairman of the meeting shall have, in addition to his vote as a member, a casting vote in case of an equality of votes. He shall exercise the usual functions of a presiding officer; and in all cases of dispute, doubt, or difficulty arising out of matters of procedure or order, his decision shall be final and conclusive.

11. The Committee shall generally control the working of the Federation and shall (subject to the provisions of Rule 31) have power to deal with any alleged breach of the rules of the Federation and shall have power to fill any vacancy in any office or in the Committee which may occur in the intervals between any two Annual General Meetings at a Committee Meeting, and the decision of the Committee shall be determined by a majority of votes provided that the Chairman of the meeting shall in addition to his vote as a member have a casting vote in the event of there being an equality of votes. The Chairman or in his absence any member of the Committee chosen by those present shall preside at the meetings of the Committee.

Five members of the Committee shall form a *quorum*.

The Secretary of the Federation shall be appointed by the Committee and shall perform such duties as they may direct and shall be paid such salary as the Committee may from time to time determine.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

12. AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING shall be held in each year in the month of April for the purpose of—

- (a) Receiving the Committee's report and statement of accounts for the previous year;
- (b) Electing Chairman and Members of the Committee,
- (c) Deciding upon any alteration in the rate of subscription,
- and (d) Transacting such other business as may be duly brought forward.

13. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS shall be held when necessary and shall be called by the Committee, or at the request of members representing one-tenth of the registered area. The notice calling any such meeting shall state the specific purpose for which the meeting is called, and no other business shall be dealt with.

14. At all general meetings the *quorum* shall be seven members in person provided they represent not less than 15 per cent. of the enrolled acreage.

15. Seven days' notice shall be given of all Annual and Special General Meetings under Rules 12 and 13.

16. No rule of the Federation, save the rule as to the vote of subscription, shall be altered, and no new rule shall be made except at a Special General Meeting of the Members thereof of which fourteen days' notice must be given to each member or to his representative in Ceylon nominated under Clause 6.

Any resolution embodying a proposed alteration or addition to the rules must, to become effective, be passed

by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting at the meeting.

17. At any meeting, unless a poll is demanded as hereinafter provided, every resolution shall be decided by a show of hands, in case there shall be an equality of votes the Chairman at such meeting shall be entitled to a casting vote in addition to the vote to which he may be entitled as a member. A declaration by the Chairman that a resolution has been carried by a sufficient majority or lost, as the case may be, and an entry to that effect in the minute book of the Federation shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number of votes recorded in favour of or against such resolution.

18. If at any meeting a poll is demanded by at least two members present in person or by accredited agent and entitled to vote the poll shall be taken at such time and in such manner as the Chairman shall direct, and in such case every member present at the taking of the poll either personally or by his accredited agent (appointed under Rule 6) shall have one vote for each 500 acres, or part thereof, of his registered cultivated area, and in case at any such poll there shall be an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting at which such poll shall be taken shall be entitled to a casting vote in addition to any votes to which he may be entitled as a member or agent for a member.

COOLIES' ACCOUNTS.

19. All Kanganies' and Coolies' Accounts, whether with the Kangany or Estate, shall be kept monthly by Estate Superintendents, and, for the sake of uniformity, the forms supplied by the Proprietors' Labour Federation should preferably be used. (The forms are to be had on application to the Secretary).

TUNDUS.

20. All tundus issued by any Superintendent of any federated estate shall be in the form which may from time to time be prescribed by the Federation.

The individual indebtedness of each cooly or family (consisting of parents and their unmarried children only) shall be stated on the tundu—the amount of such indebtedness to be taken from the Coolies' account book kept by the Superintendent, and no other sum whatsoever to be included in the amount of the debt shown upon the tundu.

21. Transactions by on-taking federated estates shall be based upon the face value of the tundu as governed by Rule 20.

22. Except when so necessitated by the operation of Rule 29 the amount recovered from any cooly or kangany shall not exceed the debt registered in the Office of the Proprietors' Labour Federation, and each transfer shall constitute a fresh register. (*Vide* Rules 25 and 26).

RECRUITING FROM INDIA.

23. The amount to be issued to newly recruited coolies on the A. form of the Ceylon Labour Commission shall not exceed Rs. 15 per head, and all new labourers from India shall be landed on estates free of any charge to them other than for cash paid into their hands, provided they work for one year on the recruiting estate.

PROTECTION OF THE IMPORTER OF LABOUR.

24. Any federated estate taking on labour imported under Rule 23 from another federated estate within a period of three years from date of such labourer's recruitment shall pay a fee of Rs. 25 per head to the importing estate. Such a fee to be a charge against the on-taking estate, and in no circumstances to be charged to the labourer.

REGISTRATION OF DEBTS.

25. Within six months of the date on which these rules come into operation, each Superintendent shall forward to the Office of the Proprietors' Labour Federation for registration, a copy of the accounts of his labour force as perfected in accordance with Rule 19.

Similarly the debts of all coolies brought upon the Estate register subsequently to this original registration shall be notified to the Secretary for inclusion in his register within one month of their employment.

It is imperative that all such debts shall have been agreed between the kangany and the cooly.

26. Every transaction relating to the transfer of coolies by federated estates shall be recorded in the Office of the Federation, and it is obligatory on both paying off and taking on estates to report details of all such transactions to the Secretary on the forms provided for this purpose.

27. Every Superintendent of a federated estate shall forward to the Secretary on or before the 15th day of each month a statement showing:—

- (a) The number of coolies shown on his register on the last day of the preceding month.
- (b) The number of registered coolies who have been paid off during the preceding month.
- (c) The number of registered coolies who have died during the preceding month.
- (d) The number of coolies who have been taken on to his register during the preceding month.

Forms for this purpose will be issued by the Secretary.

DEATH AND BOLTERS.

28. On the certified death of any registered cooly or kangany his (or her) individual debt shall be written off against the estate, and details of the same shall be forwarded to the Office of the Proprietors' Labour Federation.

29. The debts of all bolters shall be a charge against their kangany, and shall be duly entered in his account and details of the same shall be forwarded to the Office of the Proprietors' Labour Federation.

INFRINGEMENT OF RULES.

30. If any Member or any Superintendent in charge of any federated estate belonging to such Member shall infringe any of the rules of the Federation such Member shall be liable—

- (1) To compensate any Member proved to have suffered damage by such infringement, up to an amount not exceeding Rs. 100 in respect of every working cooly concerned.
- (2) To pay a penalty not exceeding Rs. 1,000 for every infringement of the Rules of the Federation proved to have been committed, such penalty to be in addition to any amount that may be awarded by way of compensation (under Section 1).

31. In the event of any member being charged by another member with infringing any of the Rules of the Federation the question whether or not an infringement has been committed and the amount of damages payable

under Rule 30 (1) and the penalty to be inflicted under Rule 30 (2) shall be determined by arbitration as follows:— Two arbitrators shall be appointed, one by the member making such charge and one by the member charged, with power for such Arbitrators to appoint an Umpire in case of difference of opinion between them (such Umpire to be first approved by the Committee). In the event of any member neglecting to appoint an Arbitrator within seven days after notice requiring him to do so shall have been given to him by the other party to such dispute then the Arbitrator appointed by such other party shall proceed to hear and determine the matter alone. The award of such Arbitrators or Arbitrator or in the event of a difference of opinion between the Arbitrators the award to such Umpire (as the case may be) shall determine whether an infringement has been committed and shall state the amounts (if any) payable by such member in respect of damages and penalties as aforesaid, and the person or persons to whom the same are respectively to be paid and such award shall be final and binding on the parties, and may be made a rule of Court under the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code, 1889, or any Statutory modification thereof at the instance of any person to whom any moneys may be payable under such award as if such person had been an original party to the arbitration and any money so awarded shall be deemed to be a debt due by such member to the person or persons in whose favour the same may have been awarded.

32. All sums recovered by way of penalties under Rule 30 (2) shall be paid into the funds of the Federation by the person who recovers the same.

PROCEEDINGS OF FEDERATION.

33. All proceedings of the Federation shall be regarded as confidential, and not for publication.

34. It shall be lawful for the members of the Federation in General Meeting by a resolution passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting at such meeting to expel any member from the Federation.

A Farewell Dinner

TO THE

Hon. Mr. E. ROSLING

WILL BE HELD AT THE

QUEEN'S HOTEL, KANDY,

At 8 p. m. on FRIDAY, the 9th May.

MEMBERS of the PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION wishing to be present are requested to apply to the Secretary, Planters' Association, as early as possible for TICKETS for themselves and their guests, enclosing with application a cheque at the rate of **Rs. 20** per head.

JOHN STILL,

Secretary, Planters' Association of Ceylon,

The Kandy Industrial School,

ESTABLISHED 1854.

15th February, 1913.

Dear Sir,

Will you kindly help the funds of the Kandy Industrial School, either by donation or by an annual subscription?

It will be readily admitted, we think that the School is doing a good work; and that it justifies its existence. It provides a home for about sixty boys, more than half of whom, when admitted, were in practically a destitute condition, and whose future, if we had not rescued them, would most likely have been amongst the pauper and criminal classes. Instead of which, they have a happy school-life for several years, receive a good plain education as well, and carefully grounded in the Christian faith and are taught useful trades to enable them to earn their own livings when school days are over. A limited number of free scholars are elected yearly, and only subscribers are entitled to vote at these elections.

The cost of maintaining the school exceeds Rs. 15,000 a year; but our income falls short of it. The subscriptions amount to only four or five hundred rupees a year: and although the industrial departments have greatly improved, and contribute largely to the income, they are handicapped for want of capital.

Again, the buildings, being very old, are constantly needing repairs; and the workshop accommodation is quite inadequate.

Printing presses, type, tools, machinery, &c., have to be replaced from time to time: and for all these things money is needed. The school is not endowed; and we owe Government a debt of Rs. 13,000.

The school has, for more than 58 years, supplied a manifest need in the country; and if it is to be maintained in its present efficiency, the Committee must look for increased support from the charitable public. We very earnestly ask your help in support of this charitable institution by subscribing even Rs. 10 a year—which will entitle you to two votes for each vacancy at the annual election of free scholars - or by giving a donation; and also by enlisting the sympathy of your friends.

Cheques and money orders may be made payable to the Manager.

Yours faithfully,

J. B. BISHOP,
Honorary Treasurer.

ERNEST E. TAYLOR,
Honorary Secretary.

(The figures given below show that it is well for us to support this school either by subscriptions or by giving orders for tools, carpentry, printing, etc.—Ed.)

Subscriptions and Donations, from 1902 to 1911.

	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Donations ...	100 00	500 00	—	—	—	—	—	70 00	12 25	50 00	284 00
Subscriptions from England ...	477 05	351 49	178 95	177 16	177 15	177 15	279 65	278 55	278 60	177 56	125 00
Local Subscriptions ..	228 00	99 50	173 00	92 00	105 00	75 00	300 00	315 00	255 00	200 00	339 20
Total...	805 05	950 99	351 95	269 16	282 15	252 15	579 65	663 55	545 85	427 56	748 20

Inmates of the School, from 1902 to 1911.

	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
Eurasians ...	27	26	27	30	32	33	36	41	38	39	36
Sinhalese ...	9	11	10	11	10	9	11	10	12	15	17
Burghers ...	9	13	12	12	11	11	11	11	7	7	12
Tamils ...	5	6	6	7	8	5	8	5	5	5	7
Europeans ...	4	5	5	4	2	2	1	—	—	—	3
Total ...	54	61	60	64	63	60	65	67	62	66	75

No. maintained as free scholars

7

29 35 34 38 35 36 34 33 34 31 31

A FLUKE IN UVA.

By "JOHNNIE B."

I have been asked to put on paper an "Experience" while in sport in Uva.

There is one episode that stands out for "Fun and Frolic," more than any other in my memory, and I trust you will all forgive me for being somewhat prolix in entering into what may seem unnecessary details.

The only actors in the farce were Banda Gamarale (Tracker) and your humble servant.

Banda, let me tell you was, and I hope still is, a real sportsman, I do not think a higher compliment could be paid him.

Now for the story—

We had been out four consecutive nights sitting up at renowned "Water-holes" with dog's luck. Banda and I took turn and turn at watching: nothing appeared excepting one or two sambur and a gross of porcupines. All we got gathered for the four nights was the best bag of "ticks" on record.

Next morning, third night from full moon, I was for trekking to the totum after a bit of a sleep. Dead tired and longing to give all-night shooting a "miss."

However "Banda," good old sport, thought differently, and, while I had been lying on my bed of sloth, he had been very much awake!

He aroused me near mid day, telling me he had struck a new "Water-hole" that had never, to his knowledge, been watched hitherto.

This naturally made me keen to see what sort of a show it was.

I immediately went off with him, who assured me it was only eight miles distant.

He carried my 10-Bore and I carried a 577 Express, both mong'uns for night work. "The eight miles were strong and elastic"—no rubber made, can stretch to the required length I walked that day and came back into position!

However, after one of the most strenuous walks, it has ever been my misfortune to undertake, we arrived at a most delightful spot. Ruins were all around, most of them mouldered away to "Mother Earth." It is difficult for me to describe the wierdness of the surroundings. Evidently the "Water-hole" that Banda and myself arrived at was, thousands of years ago, made artificially.

Steps cut into the hardest of Gniess Rock were worn down to mere slides where anyone could go an infernal mucker trying to run down stairs.

There could be no doubt that this "Water-hole" was an ancient Bath; and probably the "Very Sweetest" in those days used to lave their Chocolate Skins; and let's hope no one was the wiser.

I think I am right in stating that I once invited our energetic Secretary to visit the Sanctuary some years ago. This was, I believe, in his Archeological days.

The bath is cut out of solid rock, and on the upper side is an inscription either in Pali or Sanscrit (or any other bally old lingo.) The upper side runs up to a height of from ten to twelve feet.

Instead of merely looking at this hole and returning as was intended it was decided we would see the night through.

We had to build a "Mark" with tiny stones, the only things that could be collected, and by the time this was done and made to look something like nature. The light was failing. Our dinner that night was—

1. Banda Gamarale, one half-cup coffee.
2. Tip from Master's flask (much relished.)
3. One chew Betel.

Mine varied very little—instead of Betel place one cigarette.

Then the monotony began. Every hour was taken alternately, and both being dog tired we foxed sleep; but I can, as I write, see Banda straining his eyes at those slippery steps, although he was supposed to be in the Land of Nod.

After what seemed an interminable vigil at about 3 a.m. (my turn) I heard a rustling and grunting above me. I was getting a bit jumpy and the moon was rotten.

Then the fun began. I think we must have both lost our heads for slick above us, and not four yards off was a big dog bear. I blazed at him with the 10-Bore and all I could see was smoke.

Banda said in a rather shaky voice "You missed him." and, as he spoke, I saw the bear in exactly the same place, "Hell and Tommy!"

I stood up and gave him my second barrel behind the shoulder. The frolic now began.

The bear came rolling down from the cut rock into the dear little ladies' bath. I was left with a very angry bear and an empty rifle.

Luckily I also had to see that Banda was not drowned and that my 577 was saved.

I chose this course—in the interests of humanity. Banda and I sat three hours on the steps of this ancient bath wishing it had never been thought of.

When daylight appeared wretched forms crawled quietly up to see if "Bruin in Camp" was still alive.

We found a "Stiff un," and it was a She! Banda wandering round to gather sticks to warm our coffee came upon "Monsieur Bruin" dead as "Cats Meat" not twenty-five yards away.

Bagged them both! So we returned with our tails up!

"JOHNNIE B."

Miscellaneous



THE Bombay Gazette writing on Indian shortage of labour says:—"While on one hand emigrated Indian labour is constantly being impressed with the lack of welcome which it finds, it is a wholesome thing that a more than ordinary demand for Indian labour in India should arise. We have had evidence within the last few days that both South Africa and Canada are becoming increasingly averse to 'the Hindoos,' as all Indians are called by them, irrespective of creed. It seems a useful aim therefore to impress upon those classes, who provide the majority of the emigrants, that in India they are more likely to obtain congenial work and comfortable circum-

stances. Madras is a province, which seems to be the particular hunting-ground of the labour recruiter, and Madras is now finding it difficult to obtain hands to perform urgent work. The shortage of labour exists all over India, but it appears in Madras to be rather more acute than in other places. The Madras Government has, for years, had under progress the restoration of tanks for irrigation purposes throughout the province, and his work has been seriously hindered by the difficulty which has been experienced during the last twelve months in finding labour for it. It is true that the work to be undertaken, are usually petty, affording little profit, so that it is difficult to get contractors to take them up, but the same scarcity of labour has been found when large irrigation schemes have had to be undertaken, while there has been a constant outcry from agriculturists that the rice-fields are being deprived of their workers. A conference was called the other day to consider the situation as it affected Government works, and it finally adopted seven recommendations, four of which referred to special methods of attracting labour, by increased payments, bonuses, and other ways. At the same time it would be a good thing if Government would cause the news to be widely circulated that there is plenty of work for labourers in India, and that there is no need for them to seek it abroad, where they meet with discouragement and hardship."

MEDICINAL AND OTHER PROPERTIES OF THE PAPAW.

The milky juice of the unripe fruit of the Papaw Tree is admitted by high medical authorities to be an efficient vermifuge, and a similar property is possessed by the seeds, which have a pleasant flavour resembling that of cress. The juice is also a good cosmetic, which is used for the removal of freckles. But the most remarkable thing connected with the Papaw Tree is property possessed by the milk juice of the unripe fruit of separating the fibres of flesh and making it tender. The late L. A. Bernays, who was undoubtedly a reliable authority on the properties of plants and fruits, says, in his valuable work on "The Cultural Industries of Queensland," that this property is not confined to the juice of the fruit, but the very exhalations of the tree are said to possess it; and of this fact the Brazilian butchers take advantage to make their toughest meat saleable. This is accomplished by suspending the newly-killed meat in the tree, or by wrapping it in the leaves. So powerful is this softening action of the juice that it must be used with caution, the meat will drop to pieces, which makes it more unpalatable than if left in its original condition of toughness.

Some interesting experiments were made some years ago upon this subject at the Royal Agricultural Museum, Berlin. A portion of the juice was dissolved in three times its weight of water, and this was placed with 15 lb. of quite fresh, lean beef in one piece in distilled water, and boiled for 5 minutes. Below the boiling point, the meat fell into several pieces, and at the close of the experiment it had separated into coarse shreds. The juice can be dried without losing its effect, but its efficiency in this respect does not appear to have been tested over a longer period than six months. For roasting or baking, the best method is to wrap the meat in some of the leaves; and for

boiling, to add to the water some of the expressed juice or a piece of unripe fruit. The exact proportion to be used, and the time to be employed to render meat tender without softening it too much, can only be learned by experience; but in a hot country, where meat is necessarily cooked so soon after killing, a method by which it may with certainty be served tender, without detriment to its flavour or wholesomeness, is worth taking some trouble to determine. There can be no doubt concerning this property of the papaw juice and leaves, for we have frequently rubbed tough beefsteak with the milk of the unripe fruit with the result that the meat could be pulled to pieces with a fork on the following morning. The milk has a remarkable effect in eradicating corns and warts. A decoction of the leaves is a wholesome medicine in internal fevers. The dried leaves mixed and smoked with tobacco, or alone afford great relief in case of asthma. For dysentery the ripe fruit is a sovereign remedy.—*Tropical Agriculturist*.

NEW LABOUR ORDINANCE CERTIFICATE.

Mr. Allan Driberg applied to the Chief Justice to-day to revise a Negombo order on affidavits under the new Labour Ordinance. Sangaram and 9 other coolies applied to Mr. Frederick Schrader, Managing Proprietor, Kimbulapitiya estate for employment, etc., and these coolies appeared and applied for certificates under section 26 (1) of Ordinance No. 9 of 1909, to enable Mr. Schrader to take the coolies on. They submitted affidavits swearing they had not been employed on any estate in Ceylon within the last 36 months. The Magistrate referred the affidavits to the Police, who reported there was nothing to shew otherwise; they had been doing work as coal coolies, &c. The Magistrate made order: "With two exceptions none of these men have been in Negombo. More than a week, and nothing is known to them. I am not satisfied by their affidavits.

Mr. Driberg said the Magistrate had no right to refuse certificates on the coolies' sworn statements. His lordship ordered the Magistrate to issue the certificates, though he might make further enquiries first.—*Observer*.

TEA FLUFF OR TEA REFUSE

is now declared to be an excellent manure for roses. It is a fertiliser which results in immense blooms and which deepens the colour.—*Madras Times*, Feb. 4.



Hope Estate,
Hewaheta,
30th March, 1913.

THE EDITOR,
"Planting Gazette,"
Kandy.

Dear Sir,

May I say a few words from a federated Superintendent's point of view on the proposed new rules of the Proprietors' Labour Federation. Now that the limitation of the tundu is at last approaching, let us say, "official" recognition, it would be a pity to make its adoption more cumbersome than necessary and less effective than it should be.

With the proposed new rules, as I understand them, we should still have to get practically unanimous adhesion to the Federation before the principle could be carried out with success. The aim of the new rule is no doubt to get everybody to join the Federation, but—well, we have tried twice already to federate defensively and failed in our object, and shall, I am afraid, fail again unless we federate offensively as well as defensively.

The old rules allowed a federated Superintendent to advance his own labour above the limit to enable him to retain his labour in competition with the unfederated Superintendent.

Under the new rules this safeguard is removed, the federated Superintendent having no security for the protective advance, his fellow-federator being able to take on his labour at the registered figure, irrespective of any amounts issued later, and if their privilege to do so is not to be exercised, advances will continue as before to go up and up.

The position, therefore, will be even less favourable to the federated Superintendent than formerly.

Let us take the question in two parts—

- (1) As it concerns old debts. (2) As it concerns the debts of arrivals from Coast.

OLD DEBTS.

Under the new rules, I understand, registered debts only will be recognised on a tundu between federated estates. Presumably the full debt (not recognised of course) has to be paid as by present social custom on non-federated estate tundus. Ergo, non-federated estates can continually raise their advances, secure of being paid in full, while federated estates cannot, to protect themselves from the above, raise their advances, for fear of losing the same if their coolies leave them to go to a federated estate, which need not, and cannot, give more than the original registered debt.

The federated estates would thus be more at the mercy of the non-federated than they are now. The obvious remedy for this, to prevent the non-federated estate raising rates, is to have a limit above which no federated estate need pay, when taking on labour from an unfederated estate, so that the non-federator would have only this limit secure.

Without some such offensive tactics, I am afraid our defensive ones will prove of little avail now, any more than hitherto.

Assuming the necessity of the above to be recognised and adopted, it becomes a question whether this limit, extended to the federated and put at a higher figure, would not be more feasible than the rather cumbersome one of complete registration of old debts.

The principle is the same, namely, that henceforth a man has no security in the tundu for any advances issued in excess of a certain sum.

Registration would be of little avail also under the following circumstances, I have argued above that a protective limit against the non-federated is imperatively necessary, and I think my argument can hardly be successfully disputed.

If then we put the limit payable on non-federated tundus at, say, Rs. 80 per head, the non-federator will assuredly use the same weapon against us, and where then will be the security of the Rs. 100 registered debt?

The fact is that from whatever point of view you look at the question, the answer shows clearly "a definite amount as the limit" applicable to all. Some say that the non-federator would retaliate by taking on federated labour below the fixed limit. I hardly think this form of competition likely. Non-federators are at present half the community, all with advances outstanding, which they wish to lose as slowly as possible, and a limit applicable to all with a fixed annual reduction would probably suit them just as well as the Federator.

COAST COOLIES' DEBTS.

Registration of these debts would be of immense value. Under whatever system is adopted, if it is to the advantage of a cooly to evade his debts, he will more and more, as the mesh of restraint closes in, walk off to the Coast and come back to another estate white-washed, and this is going to be the great question with which we shall have to deal.

Now, as long as no offensive measures are taken against the non-federators, the cooly has these estates to go to on his way back from the Coast white-washed. He will choose in preference to the federated estates at which on arrival his debt would be registered, and he could not rely on getting any more

advances out of his kangany or Superintendent, owing to their inability to recover them on a tundu.

Now let us have a P. L. F. rule limiting the amount to be paid for a cooly taken on from a non-federated estate, who has come there from Coast since the passing of the rule, to say, Rs. 10 per head. The insecurity of giving more than this, should largely tend to stop the idea of coolies bolting to the Coast, expecting to be able to go to other estates and continue the game of advance receiving.

How is the federated Superintendent to know whether the cooly he proposes to take on is a recent recruit or not? Make it a P. L. F. rule that a Superintendent has to assume this to be the case until the paying-off Superintendent has proved to the contrary.

If the Federation is not to prove a failure we cannot be too rigorous in our dealings with the non-federator.

To sum up, may I suggest the following rules for the Federation:—

1. Debts of coolies coming from Coast to a federated estate after a certain date to be registered.
2. This debt only to be recognised on a tundu between federated estates.
3. No sum above Rs. per head to be recognised on a tundu either from a federated estate or non-federated estate, under any circumstances.
4. No sum above Rs. 10 per head to be recognised on a non-federated estate tundu for a recently arrived Coast cooly, and every non-federated tundu to be assumed to be for a Coast cooly until the Superintendent has satisfied the on-taking estate that the cooly was on the estate or in the island, prior to the date fixed in rule 1.

I have assumed throughout the above, that a limit of security in the tundu being placed, auditors will insist on that limit of security being respected with regard to share holders' money.

It will be seen that once these rules were adopted, there would be apparently no advantage to any one in refraining from joining the Federation, which is what we want. A slight alteration in the form of discharge notes would be found convenient.

Instead of the present single discharge note, each cooly's registered particulars might be on a card, with space at the back for details of each separate date of discharge, &c., to the number of 4 or 5.

This would facilitate tracing the cooly when necessary, and would provide the sources from which personal identification could be requested, when occasion arose.

If the Coast coolies "dossier" could begin in his village and pass with him (though not on his hands) through the Ceylon Labour Commission and Ragama, to the Superintendent's hands on the estate, and thence onwards when paid off, the security would be increased, and the trouble lessened, compared with the present disjointed system of the official registration commencing at Ragama, and fresh writing of descriptions at every discharge.

I feel sure this would meet with the approval of the Ceylon Labour Commissioner.

Many apologies are due for asking so much of your space, but do let us try and make our final effort detailed and comprehensive.

Yours faithfully,

C. A. GRANT.

Hapugastenne Group,
Ratnapura, 31st March, 1913.

THE EDITOR,

The "Planting Gazette."

Sir,

With Mr. Sparling's letter to The Secretary of State likely to bring our Advance question prominently forward in the near future, it seems preferable for us to approach Government and ask for some form of legislation, which we think will be to our advantage, rather than sit still awaiting some drastic Ordinance which may not be at all to our liking.

In your March number you refer to my scheme and point out, what at first sight must strike many people as, grave objections to it.

The first is the possible difficulty in ascertaining from each cooly what portion of his debt is "Personal" and what portion is "Incurred?" This, however, in actual practice, I have not found a real difficulty, but, of course, a certain amount of elasticity must be given in arriving at these figures, and incurred debts may have to carry rather more than is actual. When however we are face to face with losing the whole lot, I do not think this is a very serious objection. If cooly and kangany are had up face to face, it is wonderful how nearly they agree as a rule. You will always, of course, find truculent coolies who will admit no debt at all, but, as a general rule, a reasonable fair account is soon arrived at. I may say that in the case of a gang of over 200 coolies, where I went into this account, only 10 cases were difficult of settlement. I admit this first accounting is going to give a lot of work for a time to Superintendents who are not already keeping individual cooly's accounts, but this work must be cheerfully done if we are ever to get things on to a sound basis.

As to the second difficulty, the danger of the cooly asking for his tundu to get freed from his incurred debt at once (which at first sight appears to be a serious objection to the whole scheme), I do not think it is a difficulty, or an objection at all, but the very reverse. It may possibly seem to the cooly to be an inducement to take his tundu, and so get quit of his incurred debt at once, but it must not be lost sight of that the on-taking estate will have to pay the whole of the original incurred debt, *not the amortized balance*, to the paying-off estate, and charge the whole of this direct to that month's expenditure, when Directors, Colombo Agents, and Visiting Agents would probably have something to say to the sudden rise in the cost of production.

Could legislation be obtained on some such lines as I suggest, it might even be enacted as a further deterrent to extravagant advances that when tundus were given the total amount of the personal debt "B" could not exceed a certain fixed limit.

My scheme in no way proposes to be perfect or complete, but I have had a very wide and long experience of modern labour conditions, and it seems to me to be unfair now to bring over coolies with passages paid, &c., and yet do nothing to relieve our existing labour force of debts which in many cases are absolutely unjust ones. With such a scheme enforced, I believe, coolies would cease from moving about as they are doing, to a very great extent, and if estates then thought it was worth paying Fifteen Thousand Rupees for a hundred coolies of which Twelve Thousand had to go straight into expenditure, with the possibility that the coolies might then go back to the estate from whence they came with a debt of only Rs. 3,000. The on-taking estates would be taking a very big risk. The working of this scheme will not involve any more trouble on Planters than does Mr. Lloyd George's insurance bill on employers at home, once the first accounting is completed. And certainly all employers of Tamil labour should be brought under the Ordinance.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
J. SHERIDAN PATTERSON.
Medical Department,
Ceylon.

No. 1990.

THE SECRETARY, Colombo, 27th February, 1913.
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

TYPE PLANS.

Sir,
I have the honour to inform you that I shall be pleased to let the Superintendent of any estate, building new lines, have plans of type for high and low land and plans of protected wells if they apply to me.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
G. S. RUTHERFORD,
Acting P. C. M. O. & I. G. H.

It is to be hoped that Planters will take advantage of this generous offer.—Ed.

Rilhena Estate,
Palmadulla, 21st March, 1913.

THE EDITOR,
"Planting Gazette."

Dear Sir,

A suggestion which the Planters' Association might consider is the publication of an official Map of Southern India, of a suitable size to hang up in the Office. I would further suggest that the various districts be printed in contrasting colours, for then the extent of the Southern operations could be seen at a glance, and the movements of one Deputy Commissioner followed with considerable ease.

Moreover, it would be of inestimable value in keeping in touch with our coolies when they are at the Coast recruiting, besides greatly facilitating the work at this end.

Yours faithfully,

T. E. RUSSELL.
(An excellent idea. The C. L. C. will be asked to help.—Ed.)

THE EDITOR,
"Planters' Gazette."

Kanana,
Bentota,
23rd April, 1913.

Sir,

I cannot help thinking it is a pity, that some planters, instead of availing themselves of your cordial invitation to contribute correspondence on subjects of interest to the Planting Community, still think fit to write their views to the local press.

Many letters are published from day to day, and I feel sure, owing to this practice, the more significant efforts forfeit the careful perusal they would otherwise receive in your columns.

It might possibly be argued, that pressure of space would preclude these; but since you only print letters over the names of their writers, this excuse will hardly carry conviction.

While disclaiming any right to voice the sentiments of the whole Planting Community, I venture, however, to think, from expressions heard in different districts, that the majority of planters deprecate this habit of writing to the papers as not being in accord with planting etiquette.

Planting etiquette, Sir, has had a lot to do with our labour troubles; and now that we have our "Planters' Gazette," let us show more "*esprit de corps*" and support it.

Yours, etc.,
C. SHELTON AGAR.

THE EDITOR,
"Planting Gazette."

Hindugalla Estate,
Peradeniya,
April 24th, 1913.

Dear Sir,

There are strong indications that the day is not far distant on which the attempted recovery of our coast advances will be illegal.

That their recovery is impossible is already apparent in many cases, and were a sharp and continued fall to occur in our staple products, the crisis would be immediate and chaotic.

It is obvious that a sufficient labor force is as much a necessity to the estate as machinery to a factory. It is only fair that the cost of recruiting and maintaining that force at its highest possible efficiency should be an annually recurrent charge on cost of production. It is absurd and unbusinesslike to allow the debts of coolies who have died, bolted, or otherwise been lost to the estate to cumber the accounts with masses of fictitious figures and to appear as "Assets."

Let us realize once and for all that it is a question of supply and demand, and let us tackle the problem with common sense business methods. We must have labor if we are to harvest our crops, and we must spend money to secure that labor.

By competing with each other for labor already in the country, the only one who scores is the kangany who naturally sells his services to the highest bidder.

It is admitted that a solution of the present labor difficulties is to increase the number of coolies in the Island, and I firmly believe that to be the one and only effective remedy.

If we recruit coolies from the coast we have a right to be protected from those who do not do so, and who seduce our labor as fast as it is imported.

I suggest that instead of attempting to revise the present unsatisfactory system of "tundus, debts and coast advances" our efforts be directed to devising some scheme by which the introduction of fresh labor is facilitated.

As a skeleton scheme I suggest the following:—A branch of the Ceylon Labor Commission be opened to have recruiting as its primary task.

This Branch to be under a Deputy Commissioner with good European or native assistants, each to have a certain defined district in which he would be resident, leaving it only by special permission. The assistants to have recruiters living in each large village or group of small villages.

These recruiters are easily obtained. I suggest good conduct pensioners of the Indian Native Army.

These men's record can be followed back for years, they are in receipt of a small pension, and an additional fixed pay from the Ceylon Commission would be eagerly prized. They are men of good character, and good standing in their villages, and have too much to lose to make it worth their while to be anything but straight.

Tamil-speaking districts should be exploited, if possible, near those whence coolies now come to Ceylon.

The methods adopted should be for an estate to send one good kangany to the coast. He would present himself at the Deputy Commissioner's Office and have a recruiter told off to attend him. The kangany would accompany this man to his village, and they, together, would endeavour to secure coolies for the Ceylon estate. When a gang is collected they all report themselves to the office again; the advances are given out (as at present), the kangany goes off to Ceylon, the recruiter gets his pay and commission and is then free to go with the next kangany visiting his village.

To finance the scheme I propose that estates should subscribe, say 50 cts. per cultivated acre per year, and that all cost of recruiting (except cash advances) and travelling be borne by the estate.

To protect the estate from the "Local Recruiter" I propose that it be illegal to employ any registered estate cooly without a discharge note. Such note to bear, in the case of estates subscribing to this scheme a transfer fee of say Rs. 25, and for all others, say Rs. 50. No part of this transfer fee to be recoverable from the cooly under any circumstances whatever.

Estates not wishing to recover the transfer fee may issue "free discharge notes" to its coolies at direction.

WALLACE R. WESTLAND.

24th April, 1913.

[This letter did not reach us in time for its contents to be dealt with editorially in this issue. It obviously contains much that is valuable, and we hope it will receive the notice it deserves.—ED.]



DOLOSbage AND YAKDESSA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

A Committee meeting of the above Association was held at Pen-y-lan on January 22nd, 1913, at which the following members were present:—Messrs. A. J. Stephens (Chairman), Thos. Smith, F. R. Bisset, H. S. Popham, M. H. Reeves, E. G. Box, E. W. Morris, H. E. Grigg, T. J. Wilson, and W. H. Taylor (Hon. Secretary.)

The notice calling the meeting was read.

The Annual Report was considered and other business left to the General Meeting.

The notice calling the meeting was read.

The CHAIRMAN said before proceeding with the business of the meeting he had a sad duty to perform. He referred to the death of Mr. C. Worth, a very old friend of his and of them all. Mr. Worth had been Hon. Secretary of the Association and also of the Tennis Club, he admired him as a man and would ask the Association to pass the following vote of condolence:—"That this Association deeply regrets the death of Mr. C. Worth, who was for many years one of its prominent members, and sincerely sympathises with all the members of his family."

This was passed in silence all the members standing.

The HON. SECRETARY was further instructed to send a copy of this vote to Mrs. Worth.

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

The Annual Report was then read and passed.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Your Committee has pleasure in submitting its 36th Annual Report.

MEMBERSHIP.—On December 31st, 1912, there were 40 votes on the Register, including one private vote, as compared with 43 in the preceding year. Parragalla, St. Catherines, Kelvin, and Mr. Smith have withdrawn their votes, and Ambakande has joined the Association, Weywetalawa has given notice of discontinuing its subscription.

MEETINGS.—There have been two Committee meetings and two general meetings during the year, besides a special meeting called to appoint a representative on the Committee to discuss the resolutions on the Labour Question put forward at the annual meeting of the Central P. A. The attendance averaged 20 per meeting, and your Committee note with appreciation that this is double the attendance recorded for 1911, being 80 per cent. of the total number of members holding votes.

FINANCE.—The balance in hand at December 31st, 1912, was Rs. 199-91. The accounts have been duly audited and the balance-sheet is now tabled for inspection.

SEASON 1912 was a most favourable year for crop of all sorts, and estimates have been generally exceeded. Prices have receded slightly, but on the whole may be considered satisfactory. One estate omitted to make any return with this exception, 1913 estimates are as follows:—Total acreage in tea 16,321 acres. Total acreage in bearing 13,512 acres, estate crops 5,014,885 lbs., bought leaf (native) 198,524 lbs. Total tea crop 5,213,409 lbs. The estimated yield per acre is 371 lbs. Rubber acreage (approximate) 3,329 acres, rubber in bearing 875 acres, estimated crop 95,785 lbs.

CARDAMOMS.—Acreage in bearing 264 acres, estimated crop 17,500 lbs.

LABOUR.—Your Committee regret being unable to report any improvement whatsoever in the vexed question. Advances as ever seem to be on the increase in direct ratio to the supply of labour. The only solution to this problem seems to be direct recruiting from the Coast. Coolies came over to the Island in large numbers from India during the year, but this district did not seem to benefit to any large extent. The Labour Commission is actively working in new districts with a view to encouraging labour other than that from the already overrun Tamil districts.

HEALTH.—Owing to better climatic conditions, the health throughout the district has been better than during 1911. At the same time the low lying portions were by no means free from Malaria, which scourge seems to have thoroughly taken hold of the Sinhalese, as well as of immigrant labour, who owing to lack of medical accommodation do not get the attention and treatment necessary to stamp out this disease.

PESTS.—There has been no increase in pests reported, with the exception of Shot-hole borer.

HOSPITALS.—All endeavours on the part of your Committee have failed with regard to the much needed hospital at Aranayaka, the utter failure of Government to grasp or appreciate the situation being fully exposed in its reply to the effect that a hospital at Aranayaka could not be considered, as hospitals had been sanctioned at Kitulgala and Undugoda, the connection between Kitulgala and Aranayaka being best understood by Government. The present hospital at Kegalle is 19 miles from Aranayaka where the Association wishes one built to serve the Aranayaka end of the district, which is acknowledged to be one of the most unhealthy in the Island. With regard to erection of new wards at Nawalapitiya hospital, the inclusion of Rs. 12,000 in the 1912-1913 estimates seems to be as far as this work has progressed.

ROADS.—In our annual report for 1911 it was noted with satisfaction that there was some probability of the Poonagalla road being extended to Seaforth under the 1902 Ordinance. In February, 1912, Government agreed to bring the road under the Estates Road Ordinance, at the same time adding that the construction, etc., of the road could not even be considered for some years, in view of more important work to be undertaken. All efforts to induce Government to take over the small Lantern Hill-Somerset piece of road, joining together two Government cart-roads, which would otherwise be cul-de-sacs, have proved in vain. Your Committee regrets that only four of the corners on the Dolosbage road have been benched, although this work was sanctioned four years ago, and is urging upon Government the necessity of having this work continued as soon as possible.

MINOR ROADS.—The sums granted during 1912 were as follows:—From the D. R. C., Kandy, Rs. 325.30, from the D. R. C., Kegalle, Rs. 1,091.00. The amount granted on the Nawalapitiya Short cut was not fully claimed, and no account was rendered for the Pen-y-lan-Meddegodde road.

PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.—Through the efforts of Mr. W. J. R. Hamilton your representative, this fund was more generally subscribed to, both privately and by estates, in 1912 than in past years, and a representative has to be elected to carry on the good work, vice Mr. Hamilton who has gone home.

C. P. R. C.—Owing to the untiring efforts of 2nd Lieut. Popham the local section continues to maintain its high standard of efficiency both as regards numbers and marksmanship.

OBITUARY.—It is with the genuine regret of the whole district that the deaths of Messrs. W. B. Swan and C. Worth have to be recorded. Mr. Swan was one of the oldest and most respected residents in Dolosbage, and Mr. Worth had served the district long and well in many ways, having been a former Hon. Secretary of this Association, a sergeant in the C. P. R. C., and for many years Hon. Secretary and mainstay of our club. Both these gentlemen were the soul of hospitality and will be missed for many years to come.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Your Committee have also to record with regret the departure from the district of Messrs. E. and W. J. R. Hamilton, and would take this opportunity of expressing the hope that the district may have many opportunities of welcoming them again.

The thanks of the Association are due to Mr. M. H. Reeves for acting as our representative on the special Labour Committee.

(Signed) W. H. TAYLOR,
Hon. Secretary,
D. & Y. P. A.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN.

Before vacating the chair the retiring CHAIRMAN intimated that he could not undertake to act again, and mentioned several younger men whom he considered would be quite capable of the duties. He had had seven years of it and now asked the meeting to elect someone else. He thanked the district for honouring him so long. Although retiring from active service of the Association, he would do all he could to help the district as heretofore.

Mr. THOS. SMITH was temporarily elected to the chair. He proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman and Hon. Secretary for their able efforts on behalf of the Association.

Mr. SMITH then proposed and Mr. MORRIS seconded that Mr. Reeves be elected Chairman for the coming year. Mr. Reeves was duly elected and, having thanked the members for the honour, took the chair.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 1913.

The following members were elected:—

HON. SECRETARY.—E. G. BOX.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.—Thos. Smith, A. J. Stephens, W. R. Scott, F. R. Bisset, T. J. Wilson, A. Sudlow, E. S. Stephens, M. B. Blount, H. S. Popham, D. S. Cameron, E. W. Morris, H. E. Grigg, M. H. Reeves (Chairman), and Hon. Secretary.

AUDITOR.—F. R. Bisset.

KANDY COMMITTEE.—Thos. Smith, A. J. Stephens, Chairman and Hon. Secretary.

HOSPITAL VISITORS.—Gampola, A. Sudlow; Dolosbage, T. J. Wilson; Nawalapitiya, E. G. Box; Aranayake Dispensary, H. S. Popham.

PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.—A. J. Stephens.

D. R. C., KEGALLE.—H. S. Popham.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Read letter from P. C. M. O. re the supply of drugs at Aranayake Dispensary.

Read letter from the Secretary Planters' Association, and from Messrs. Delmege, Forsyth & Co., re the use of damaged drums for liquid fuel on the railway.

Read letters from the Secretary Planters' Association re "Rubber Canker" and "Shot-hole Borer" being brought under the Plants Pests Ordinance. After considerable discussion the Association declared itself against the inclusion of these pests under the ordinance.

Read Mr. T. J. Wilson's report on the Dolosbage Hospital, as follows:—

I visited the Dolosbage Hospital to-day, the dispenser was in charge at the time of my visit, there were 9 males and 4 females in hospital, this is the smallest number I have ever found in the hospital. The latrines, bath-rooms and grounds were all clean and in order. The food was being prepared at the time of my visit and seemed to be of good quality, no complaints about the food were made to me, the patients were in the wards and grounds at the time of my visit. All servants were present and I did not notice any infringements of the hospital regulations.

(Signed) T. J. WILSON.

January 21st.

Read letter from Mr. Blount to the effect that he was unable to obtain Laudanum from the Dolosbage Hospital Dispenser. The Hon. Secretary was instructed to write to the P. C. M. O. and inquire whether dispensers can supply Laudanum to Superintendents of estates at their request and under what conditions.

Several members having complained of inattention, inaccuracies and delay on the part of the local postmaster, it was proposed by Mr. Bisset and seconded by Mr. POPHAM that the P. M. G. be written by the Hon. Secretary as follows: "That this Association wishes to draw the attention of the Postmaster-General to the frequent complaints of members of negligence on the part of the postmaster at Dolosbage."

This terminated the meeting.

(Signed) E. G. BOX,
Hon. Secretary, D. & Y. P. A.

HAPUTALE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

ROPEWAY FROM LEMASTOTA BRIDGE.

MORE LABOUR WANTED IN THE DISTRICT.

The Annual General Meeting of the Haputale Planters' Association was held at the Haputale Resthouse on Friday, 24th January, at 1 p.m., preceded by a Committee Meeting at 12-30 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. A. J. Percy Wills (Chairman), W. Gibson, T. Scovell, W. A. Wilson, J. W. Hyde, Childe Thomas, Cobham Grant, Gordon Windus, Allen Coombe, S. B. Smith, R. A. H. Ashby, T. Hudson, Bryce J. Wyllie, W. Rollo Cassie, B. T. Heathcote, G. Abbot; visitors Messrs. J. Coombe, MacMillan and Cooper; and G. O. Trevaldwyn (Hon. Secretary.)

DAMAGE TO THE RAILWAY.

Mr. MacMILLAN, of the C. G. R., spoke on the work being carried on to repair the damage done to the Railway during the recent heavy rains. He said the line was clear as far as 152½ mile, and that there were hopes that an engine would be got through to Haputale in the course of a day or so; but that it would be some time before the subsidence beyond Haputale could be repaired permanently. In the meantime a ropeway was being erected to transfer goods over the damaged part of the line.

Read wires from G.A., Badulla, re prevention of congestion at Haputale Station on arrival of rice, which the General Manager of the C. G. R. was taking measures to forward in large quantities.

Resolved that a sub-Committee of the following be formed to meet the General Manager on his arrival at Haputale:—Messrs. J. W. Hyde, W. A. Wilson, J. Coombe, G. Thain Davidson, Bryce J. Wyllie, W. Gibson, T. Hudson, and G. O. Trevaldwyn.

DESERVED THANKS.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a vote of thanks to Messrs. MacMillan and Cooper and their staff for the good work they had already done on the line, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. MacMILLAN returned thanks in suitable terms.

LIQUID FUEL DRUMS.

Read letters from General Manager of the C.G.R., and Messrs. Delmege, Forsyth & Co., re defective state of some of the drums used for conveyance of liquid fuel.

It was hoped that, in future, those planters who use these drums for the conveyance of liquid fuel would take measures to have them repaired and cleaned before sending them to the station.

WAREHOUSE RENT.

Discussed altered clauses.

Proposed from the chair that the General Manager be written to in terms of letter from Badulla P.A.

HAPUTALE GOODS SHED.

Read letter from the General Manager of C.G.R. re shortage of rice and other goods.

RUBBER CANKER.

Resolved:—"That this Association support the Kalutara P.A.'s resolution to have canker in rubber proclaimed as a pest under the Plant Pests Ordinance."

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Annual Report was then read as follows:—

Your Committee have pleasure in laying before you the 37th annual report.

The number of estates on the register at the end of the year was 49, and there are 2 private members.

Your Committee regret to report the departure from the district of Mr. C. C. Durrant, a former Chairman and most useful member of the Association.

MEETINGS.—Three General, four Committee and one Special General Meeting, all of which have been well attended.

FINANCE.—The financial position of the Association is satisfactory, the balance at credit being Rs. 312'73.

The official crop estimates for 1912 and 1913 are as follows:—

Acreage.	In Bear- ing.	TEA.		Crop. Per Acre.
		Total Crop. lbs.	Native. lbs.	
1912 ...	20,667	19,203	9,610,250	504
1913 ...	20,936	19,302	10,675,125	510

Acreage.	Trees.	RUBBER.		Crop Dry Rubber. lbs.
		Trees in Bearing.		
1912 ...	3,711	594,222	112,429	121,650
1913 ...	3,311	623,076	174,894	206,500

Other products:—

	COCOA.		PEPPER.	
1912 ...	20 cwt.		3 cwt.	
1913 ...	290 "		33 "	

SEASON AND CROPS.—The weather was again very dry from June to the end of September, but has been followed by a very heavy monsoon crops have been fair. The price realised for tea and rubber have been very satisfactory.

ROADS.—The roads in the district have been kept in good order during the year. The junction of the Haldumulla-Koslanda and Haputale-Haldumulla roads has been widened and a new culvert built, making the turning suitable for modern traffic. Your Committee much regret that the Bandarawella-Welimada road sanctioned in 1906 is still far from being finished. The latest information is that it is expected to be completed by the middle of 1913. Some of the corners on the Haputale-Bandarawella road are still dangerous in spite of having been benched. The corners require to be cut right back and the road widened to enable vehicles to pass each other comfortably. The Provincial Engineer has been written to on the subject.

RAILWAY.—The Bandarawella-Badulla railway which has long been agitated for by the Badulla and Passara Associations has been sanctioned. The storage of rice and other goods delivered at Haputale station has been the subject of correspondence between your Association and the General Manager of the Railway, otherwise the working of the railway during the year has given satisfaction.

GENERAL TRANSPORT.—A serious outbreak of rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease occurred in different parts of the Province in September, and has not yet been completely stamped out. The cart traffic has been consequently greatly disorganised and your Committee are of the opinion that the question of mechanical transport is one that should be considered by the Association at an early date.

TELEPHONES.—An exchange has been started by Mr. Thain Davidson at Lipton's store, and most of the estates and bungalows in the Haputale postal district have agreed to join. Your Committee hope that other Exchanges will be started at Bandarawella, Haldumulla, and possibly Koslanda, to be eventually connected by a district trunk line. Information regarding other District Exchanges has been collected by the Association and is available for members.

MEDICAL.—Dr. Jayatilke, who had done several years of good work in the district, left in July, and prior to his departure was entertained at breakfast by the district as a mark of esteem.

HOSPITAL REPORT.

Messrs. J. W. Hyde and A. Fellowes Gordon report on the Haputale Hospital as follows:—

Visited on October 9th, 1912, at 4-45 p.m.

STAFF.—The staff were all present, but, as usual, there is only one nurse, the matron. The full complement is two nurses, i.e. the matron and one nurse. This lack of an assistant nurse has been represented to the P.C.M.O. before, and we consider that another nurse should be appointed at once, as the present arrangement entails undue labour on the matron, besides not being conducive to efficiency.

P.S.—Since the above was written another nurse has been appointed, and there are now 2.

PATIENTS.—At time of visit there were 31 indoor patients under treatment—males 19 and females 12. They all seemed to be progressing favourably. No complaints were made as to food or attention.

ANCHYLOSTOMIASIS.—There were in 1911 30 cases treated in hospital and 31 patients receiving treatment. Up to September 20th, 1912, 20 cases have been treated. On enquiry we found that the majority of the cases were from the lower end of the district.

OPIUM SALES.—There are 59 regular consumers and seven vederalas.

OPERATING ROOM.—A general improvement in space has been made by the removal of the chimney, which was unnecessary.

FEMALE WARD.—The female ward was full. This ward is undoubtedly insufficient for requirements. Its utmost capacity is 12 beds, but very often cases have to be put on temporary beds, thereby overcrowding the ward. We strongly recommend extra accommodation being provided.

KITCHEN.—This is supposed to be fly-proof, but as there is only a single door instead of double doors, we found the room full of flies. The attention of the Provincial Engineer should be drawn to this. The kitchen was not as clean as it might be.

DRAINS.—The drains require re-grading, as water is lodging in many places. This work, we understand, is shortly to be taken in hand. The two main drains on either side of the hospital should be continued further from the hospital, and it would be advisable to have these flushed more frequently to obviate the smell which is often very noticeable when passing.

FLOORS.—The floors in general require attention, the cement being in many places worn out.

(Signed) J. W. HYDE,

„ A. FELLOWES GORDON.

REPORT ON KOSLANDA HOSPITAL.

I visited this on 9th January. The wards, kitchens, latrines, etc., were all well kept and clean. The grounds surrounding buildings were neat and tidy. The exit drain in front of main building requires extending. I understand this is to be put in hand immediately. There is accommodation for 40 patients. At date of visit there were 39.

(Signed) C. M. DURRANT.

MORE LABOUR WANTED.

LABOUR.—Your Committee beg to report that, although coolies have come over from the Coast in increased numbers, they are still insufficient to cope with the extra work on estates and increased acreage opened. The Proprietors' Labour Federation has now been in force for two years, and has been endeavouring to stimulate coast recruiting, but so long as it is only supported by about half the cultivated acreage of the Island, it is difficult to see how it will attain its object.

PESTS.—Shot-hole borer:—Your Committee are pleased to report that the General Committee of the Parent Association has recently passed a resolution in favour of checking the sale of plants from estates infected by this pest, and that Shot-hole borer has been proclaimed a pest under the Plant Pests Ordinance. This is a matter which has been before the Haputale Planters' Association for over ten years, and agitation on the subject was renewed during 1911-12.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

The CHAIRMAN, Mr. A. J. Percy Wills, in vacating the Chair, thanked the members for the support they had given him during his year of office.

Mr. W. GIBSON took the Chair temporarily.

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Mr. COBHAM GRANT proposed, and Mr. T. HUDSON seconded, a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman for the way he had carried on the business of this Association during the past year.

On the motion of Mr. COBHAM GRANT, seconded by Mr. S. B. SMITH, Mr. J. W. Hyde was elected to the Chair for the ensuing year.

Mr. Hyde then took the Chair amid applause.

Mr. HYDE asked Mr. G. O. Trevaldwyne if he would act as Hon. Secretary for 1913, but Mr. Trevaldwyne regretted he was unable to continue the work, having already served for two years.

Mr. A. J. PERCY WILLS then proposed that Mr. R. A. H. Ashby be elected Hon. Secretary for 1913. This was seconded by Mr. CHILDE THOMAS and carried.

Mr. A. J. PERCY WILLS then proposed, and Mr. S. B. SMITH seconded, a vote of thanks to the retiring Secretary for the very efficient manner in which he had carried out his duties.

Other office-bearers were elected as follows:—

GENERAL COMMITTEE.—Haputale: Messrs. W. Gibson, G. O. Trevaldwyne, A. Fellowes Gordon; West Haputale: Childe Thomas; Koslande: J. Coombe, C. M. Durrant, R. G. Coombe; Haldummulla: Bryce J. Wyllie, G. Abbott; Bandarawella: B. T. Heathcote, Cobham Grant.

KANDY COMMITTEE.—W. Gibson, R. G. Coombe, G. O. Trevaldwyne, the Chairman and Hon. Secretary.

PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.—R. G. Coombe.

CEYLON NURSING ASSOCIATION.—W. Gibson.

HOSPITAL VISITORS.—Haputale: J. W. Hyde, A. Fellowes Gordon; Koslande: C. M. Durrant, H. P. Woodgate.

PLANT PESTS BOARD.—W. Ormiston.

AUDITOR.

Mr. HYDE, from the Chair, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. G. Thain Davidson for having audited the accounts previously.

This was carried unanimously.

Mr. G. Thain Davidson was then re-elected auditor proposed by Mr. S. B. SMITH, and seconded by Mr. G. O. TREVALDWYNE.

P. R. C. MEMBER.—Mr. R. G. Coombe.

ROADS.

Read letter from Provincial Engineer, Uva, re benching dangerous corners.

The Secretary was directed to answer P. E.'s letter after receiving requisite information re corners to be benched from members on whose estates these corners are situated.

Read letter from Mr. R. G. Coombe to Mr. A. J. Percy Wills, late Chairman, in connection with grants to minor roads intimating that he had applied for special grants.—1. Rs. 90 for railing on Haputale Wilson's Bungalow road; 2. Rs. 100 for bridge on Lemastota-Haputale road.

It was pointed out to members that whatever sum was granted from the P.R.C. funds towards upkeep of minor roads; the estates had to spend a similar sum towards the same upkeep.

SHOT-HOLE BORER.

Mr. WILLS spoke very strongly on the subject of keeping Shot-hole borer in check, and now that it had been

proclaimed as a pest under the Plant Pests Ordinance of 1907, he thought steps should immediately be taken to report any estate where proper measures were not being taken to do this to the representative on the Plant Pests Ordinance.

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT.

Mr. G. O. TREVALDWYN read letters and figures in connection with a ropeway from Lemastota Bridge to Haputale which would tap some 9,000 acres of land in cultivation.

A sub-Committee of the following members was formed to collect figures in connection with same:—Messrs. R. G. Coombe, Bryce J. Wyllie, G. Abbott, G. O. Trevaldwy, and R. C. Lysons.

The meeting then closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) R. A. H. ASHBY,
Hon. Secretary, H.P.A.

THE UDA-PUSSELLAWA P. A.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN.

The Annual General Meeting of the Uda-Pussellawa P. A. was held at the Ragalla resthouse at 2:30 p.m. to-day (Friday). Mr. E. Hamlin presided, and the others present were:—Messrs. W. H. Biddulph, E. T. C. Farr, C. J. Owen, J. M. Urquhart, E. E. Nicol, A. C. Wilson, W. A. Gordon, C. Boswell, V. F. Edwards, C. C. Wilson, C. A. Johnson, C. T. Nettleton, D. H. Young, F. C. Chalmers, A. Troup, D. F. Burton, H. F. Thomson, A. P. J. Armstrong, A. W. Glennie (Hon. Secretary), John Gordon (by proxy) and Guy Owen (visitor.)

The minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, Mr. A. W. Glennie read the following interesting report for the past year:—

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1912.

MEMBERSHIP.—All the estates in the district, numbering 26, subscribed to the Association in 1912.

MEETINGS.—There were four general meetings during the year, at which there was a very good attendance, the average being nearly 17 per meeting, including visitors who were mostly assistant superintendents in the district.

OBITUARY.—This Association has great regret in having to record the death of Mr. O. H. Woodhouse, assistant on Delmar estate, a very popular and genial member of the district.

THE WEATHER, on the whole, was very favourable. The rainfall, although short of last year, was more evenly distributed, and the abnormal rains of October, November, and December, 1911, were not repeated. The gales during July and August, although at times quite as severe as last year, were not of such long duration.

CROP.—The tea crop was in excess of 1911, owing to the better weather, especially during the last few months of the year.

PRICES have ruled higher than last year, and it is satisfactory to note that several estates in the upper end of the district have on many occasions topped the Ceylon market in London, with very fine averages, while the lower end prices have also improved proportionately. One complete invoice of tea sent away from Ragalla estate fetched in London the very fine average price of 1s. 2½d. per lb.

PESTS.—There were no serious cases reported during the year.

SHOT-HOLE BORER has appeared in a lower field of Mahauva estate, and also on Wattamulla estate, but the superintendents have taken steps to check it as far as possible.

HEALTH.—The health of the coolies in the district appears to have been good on the whole, and no epidemic of any infectious disease occurred.

CART ROAD.—This has been kept in good order throughout the year, with the exception of a few parts which were rather full of ruts for a short time during the dry weather, but on the whole there has been little to.

CART ROAD—to complain of.—This Association passed a resolution asking Government to cut back the dangerous corners between Kandapolla and St. Margarets, but nothing has been done, nor has Government promised to do anything.

MINOR ROADS.—These are in fairly good order, and this Association has to thank those who have helped to maintain the roads in their charge.

ST. MARGARETS-KIRKLEES CART ROAD EXTENSION.—Although this trace of the new road has been completed, it is to be regretted that plans have not yet been completed, nor estimates framed at headquarters, but it is to be hoped that this most important work will be taken in hand as soon as possible.

RAILWAY.—No reduction has been made in the existing exorbitant rates, although this Association again put the matter before the General Manager. It is to be regretted that although this Association asked the General Manager if he could not erect some signals at dangerous corners, to show when trains were coming, he replied that he could not see his way to do so.

BENEVOLENT FUND AND HATTON NURSING ASSOCIATION were well supported during the year, especially the former.

DISTRICT TELEPHONES.—The installation is now nearing completion, a decided step towards progress.

LABOUR.—Most estates have had nearly sufficient labour during the year, and this district seems to have had its share of new Coast coolies. Unfortunately, however, advances, in spite of monthly payments, have on nearly every estate shown an increase. The local Labour Federation has worked very satisfactorily during the year, but unfortunately owing to the unsatisfactory want of cohesion among planters, a considerable number of old coolies have been induced to leave this district tempted by large advances from other districts.

HOSPITAL REPORT.

The hospital has been visited several times during the year by Mr. Long, before he went home, and by myself.

The total number of patients for 1912 was as follows:

	Estate Labourers.	Civil Patients.
In patients	180	328
Out patients	1,735	1,423

The in patients number almost the same as in 1911, but the number of out patients treated shows a decrease of 1,511.

On my visits I always found everything clean and tidy, and on the occasions I saw the patients' food it seemed clean, good and properly cooked. I saw no overcrowding in any of the wards, and no complaints were made to me by any of the patients.

The yearly complaint has again to be made about the unsatisfactory, and insufficient water supply, nothing having been done during the year to rectify this serious matter, but I understand the matter has now been put before the Medical Wants Committee, and I trust that something will be done at an early date.

THE CHAIRMAN THANKED.

The CHAIRMAN said that the report just read by the Hon. Secretary was a very full one covering nearly all that needed to be mentioned. Although it was usual for the Chairman to review the year's working, it did not become necessary that day, as all that had been done by the Association during the year had been put before them comprehensively by Mr. Glennie. He thanked the members for the attention they had always devoted to the business of the Association and for their attendance at the meetings. His work as Chairman had been rendered very easy indeed by the very efficient and good work put in by Mr. Glennie, and the ready attendance of members. As

regards Mr. Glennie's work he could not say too much. He had never had so good an Hon. Secretary under him before. (Cheers.) With these remarks he resigned the chair.

On the motion of Mr. URQUHART, seconded by Mr. A. C. WILSON, the chair was occupied temporarily by Mr. Biddulph.

Mr. BIDDULPH thanked the meeting for affording him an opportunity of thanking Mr. Hamlin very heartily for the very excellent work he had done as Chairman. He had filled that office elsewhere and knew very well what those duties were, and he could assure them that they were by no means as light as Mr. Hamlin had wished them to believe! With the assistance rendered by them and the hard-working Hon. Secretary, Mr. Hamlin, had been able to considerably further the welfare of the Association. He then proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Hamlin and also to Mr. Glennie for the work they had so faithfully and admirably carried out. He need hardly ask for a vote on that, as he felt confident that everybody would support it. (Cheers.)

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN.

Mr. NICOL said he had much pleasure in proposing the name of Mr. W. H. Biddulph as Chairman of the Association for the coming year. He believed Mr. Biddulph had the experience as Chairman of what was known as their premier district Up-country, Dimbula. Experience was necessary for conducting their business and furthering their interests. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. A. C. WILSON seconded.—Carried *nem. con.*

Mr. BIDDULPH, in thanking the meeting for electing him, said he felt he was placed in an embarrassing situation. He felt it would be against his principles to take any office in a district where there were others senior to him in years, in residence, and in service and who had prior claim to the honour of the office. Oddly enough the very gentleman who it had been his intention to propose for the chair had cut the ground under his feet! (Cheers.) It was absolutely against his principles, but as others senior to himself had not agreed to come forward for one reason or another, he could only say that he would do his best and he hoped Mr. Glennie would not mind giving him his valuable assistance. (Hear, hear.)

MR. GLENNIE CONTINUES AS HON. SECRETARY.

Mr. GLENNIE said that as it was their wish for him to go on for another year. (Cheers.)

THE KANDY COMMITTEE AND P. B. F.

Mr. A. C. Wilson was elected member of the Kandy Committee, and Mr. A. W. Glennie of the Planters' Benevolent Fund.

HOSPITAL VISITORS.

Messrs. A. W. Glennie and C. A. Johnson were elected hospital visitors for the coming year on the motion of Mr. FARR seconded by Mr. C. J. OWEN.

MINOR ROADS.

Messrs. C. J. Owen, E. T. C. Farr and A. C. Wilson with the Chairman and Hon. Secretary were elected to serve on the Minor Roads Committee.

The CHAIRMAN asked what was the position of the accounts.

Mr. GLENNIE said there was Rs. 63 to the credit of the Association, and Rs. 591 to the credit of the minor roads account, the latter awaiting the vouchers of those responsible for the work. Mr. A. C. Wilson had audited the accounts.

DISTRICT TELEPHONE SCHEME.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, the next business before us is District Telephones. I think you all know how far the work has advanced. Most of us have had ocular demonstration. I had the telephone instruments put into my office yesterday, and I have up to this afternoon been trying to get connected up with some one without success; that might be owing to the weather. In other places the wires are up, and instruments being put into bungalows. With better weather, the whole scheme will soon be, I hope, in working order. Have you, gentlemen, anything to urge in connection with what has been done up to date?

Mr. E. E. NICOL: I do not think we can criticise the scheme till the whole of it has been completed.

The CHAIRMAN: There are some letters here in regard to what has been done, which the Secretary will have to read to you in this connection. In view of what Mr. Nicol mentioned, I will move the meeting into Committee, with your approval. The letters from Messrs. C. C. Wilson, J. M. Urquhart and E. Hamlin can then be read, and Mr. Young, who has very kindly come to us to-day, will be able to explain matters.

The meeting then went into Committee, and the letters from the gentlemen mentioned read, also the Hon. Secretary's replies to Mr. Urquhart on the subject. Mr. Young met certain points raised. The meeting was then resumed.

The CHAIRMAN thought members would like to know what the yearly cost of upkeep of the scheme was going to be. So far the cost was estimated as follows:—

	Rs. cts.
Yearly rent for upkeep of the two exchanges at Rs. 10 per month for the two	240 00
Wages of clerks attached to the exchanges at Rs. 25 per month each	600 00
Salary of an overseer at Rs. 100 per month	1,200 00
Annual Government rent	84 00
	<u>Rs. 2,124 00</u>

The CHAIRMAN said twenty-four estates had subscribed to the scheme. While on the question he would ask them to record a vote of thanks to Mr. John Gordon, of Luckland, who signed both the licenses for them, and that helped them to make headway with the scheme. (Cheers.)

Mr. E. E. NICOL: I suppose we will have others joining us, how about public offices?

The CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Secretary informs me that the Police are going to put themselves on our exchange at their own expense. The P. C. M. O. has been approached to have the hospital put on, and I regret to say that the authorities in Colombo are not so generous as the police, and I fancy the expenses of connecting up the hospital will have to be met by the subscribers. The General Manager of Railways has agreed to levy a nominal rent for the railway station instrument, and the P. M. G. has consented to

meet us, and I am sure we are grateful to the P. M. G. and G. M. R. for their co-operation, which I think very good of them.

Mr. E. E. NICOL: Can trades people join? I am referring to our general provider, Carawallio. I have done my best to induce the firm to place themselves on the telephone. The senior man is away on the Coast and they would come on when he returns.

The CHAIRMAN: We can have him connected up, and I suppose others would also like to join.

Mr. E. E. NICOL: As subscribers?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, they will benefit and they must come on as subscribers.

LOCAL LABOUR FEDERATION.

The CHAIRMAN: In this connection the Secretary has a letter from Mr. Urquhart in which that gentleman intimates that he resigns from the Local Federation from date intimated. The Hon. Secretary read the letter.

Mr. C. J. OWEN: Can he do it? He bound himself for 12 months. Is it possible for him to go back on his undertaking? The Local Labour Federation has nothing whatever to do with the Planters' Labour Federation of Ceylon. If local estates agree to federate, and some of those estates have not federated with the Planters' Labour Federation of Ceylon, I don't see how such failure could touch the local one, as it has nothing at all to do with the other.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Urquhart in his letter tell us, he is obliged to resign the local Federation, owing to some of those who have federated locally not being subscribers to the Planters' Labour Federation.

Mr. C. J. OWEN: But he undertook to keep in with the local body, and I do not think he can retire till the 12 months to which he bound himself are over.

The CHAIRMAN asked for rules of the Local Federation.

Mr. GLENNIE said he had not brought the document, to which members who agreed to the conditions laid down there had subscribed their signatures. Everybody concerned knew what the conditions embodied in it were. The agreement made was to end of June, 1913.

Mr. J. M. URQUHART: My instructions are clear. I have to act on them. I am asked to make it as hard as I possibly could for all who were not subscribers to the Planters' Labour Federation.

Mr. C. J. OWEN: Name, name of your advisers!

Mr. J. M. URQUHART: That I refuse to give to a general meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: This matter wants clearing up, and with your permission, gentlemen, I will move this general meeting into Committee.—Agreed. After the question had been fully entered into, the meeting was resumed into a general one.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have seen the position in which Mr. Urquhart has been placed. He has, of course, to carry out orders. But I feel confident that agents and proprietors will not go so far as to see the pledge and honour of a superintendent staked, when matters are clearly put before them. I am sure Mr. Urquhart will make an endeavour to see that his pledge to this Association is respected. All superintendents are vested with certain powers. They sometimes enter into a contract with a chetty for rice, it may be good, it may be bad, in the

opinion of the V. A. Well, it has been done and there is the end of it. It has to go on till the conditions of it have been fulfilled. In like manner a superintendent's undertaking with local Association to federate should be allowed to continue by all right-thinking V. A.'s, agents, and proprietors, till such time as the superintendent can honourably retire. My position is that of a superintendent, and I shall always strive to have pledges I enter into, believing them to be the *bona fide* interests of the proprietor, respected. (Cheers.)

MINOR ROADS.

The CHAIRMAN: When the accounts were before you, it transpired informally that grants were paid to you for keeping up sections of the roads you are interested in. The procedure the Island over is that you should spend double what you are given for the upkeep of the road you are interested in. When you have expended that amount you send in a voucher declaring the amount expended by you. You are then paid the half of the amount expended. I must tell you absolutely straight that, while I occupy this chair, grants you claim will only be paid to you on the conditions attached to planters in other districts. It is the only way in which the payments of grants have been sanctioned. I have experience of it in other districts where the conditions enumerated obtain.

Mr. J. M. URQUHART: That is exactly my experience in Kandy, Gampola and other districts.

Mr. A. C. WILSON: The way in which grants were paid in Dikoya is as stated by our Chairman.

Mr. E. T. C. FARR: Why do the Government treat us so liberally? We have been paid grants for years on application.

Mr. J. M. URQUHART: It is only the Kachcheri that has paid it in that way.

Mr. E. T. C. FARR: Sir, I have been looking after a section of road from Waldemar to Portwood. The grant for that road is Rs. 90. I never used the road. Have I to spend Rs. 180 on it annually, before I can get the vote of Rs. 90 allowed for its upkeep?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. E. T. C. FARR: On those conditions I would be excused looking after the road. What happens to it, if I do not keep it up.

The CHAIRMAN: I suppose it will be abandoned.

Mr. C. C. WILSON: The road is largely used by Sinhalese villagers, and Government should be asked to keep it.

The CHAIRMAN: We have now come to a point at which I think we should go into Committee. With your permission, gentlemen, I will move this general meeting into Committee.—Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN here went into customs obtaining in other districts. After some expressions of opinions by members, the meeting was again resolved into a general one.

Mr. E. E. Nicol's application to the A. C. F. for free trees from Crown Land to construct a bridge over a section of the road he was interested in was supported. On Mr. Nicol intimating that he was supplied the trees free when the bridge was renewed some years back, his application was then gone forward with the support of the Association.

Uda-Pussellawa Railway.**MR. BIDDULPH NOT HOPEFUL OF SECURING
REDUCED FARES.**

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nicol, will you move your resolution?

Mr. E. E. Nicol said his resolution was:—

(1) That this Association invites the Planters' Association of Maturata and Nuwara Eliya to join this Association and elect a Committee to form a deputation to meet H. E. the Governor, with a view to requesting him to reduce the rates on the Nanuoya-Uda-Pussellawa Railway, for goods and passengers to the same rates as are ruling on the Kelani Valley Railway, and that the Planting Representative in Council be asked to introduce the Deputation to the Governor.

(2) That as soon as the Committee has been formed, they request the General Manager, Ceylon Government Railways, to supply them with all necessary figures, showing receipts and expenditure on the Nanuoya-Uda-Pussellawa Railway."

Mr. NICOL: Gentlemen, the Uda-Pussellawa Railway to Ragalla Station has been opened now for traffic 9½ years. It was in what was then called working order on 12th July, 1904. We, as a district, promised Government to put all our goods on to the Railway for transport, and, though one or two estates stood out for a time through having outside carting contracts which could not be broken, eventually all the produce and goods necessary for the good working of the estates was sent down or brought up on the Railway on exactly the same rates paid to cartmen, viz., 44 cents per ton per mile. We, as a district, kept our word with Government. They on the other hand promised to reduce the above rates as soon as the Railway paid. They have not as yet done so, and I have heard that the Railway does not pay. This seems very hard to believe in the face of so much extra produce and extra requirements passing over. I am aware that there have been very considerable improvements made on the section between Nanuoya and Nuwara Eliya, but on the other hand I would ask why was the Railway not properly constructed at first. Are we to go on for ever paying for improvements and not get the relief we ask for, viz., reduction in the rates charged to the same standard as the Kelani Valley Railway. The Government created a precedent in giving us the Railway, but is this precedent of overcharges to go on for ever?

The CHAIRMAN: I think the resolution for the formation of a Committee is perfectly in order, but I feel bound to tell you that there is not the faintest chance of the deputation securing the relief they are to seek for. On the figures up to the 30th June of 1911 there had been no profit. Last year there was a small profit. Mr. Greene had gone over them hurriedly and was not in a position to say what the amount was, but what profit there was, he thought, would about cover the renewal of rails, and upkeep of the permanent way. The cost of construction of our Railway was one and three-quarter million which works out the cost of our Railway at Rs. 900,000 per mile. We all know Government works well enough to know that the original estimate of cost is usually expended to the hilt and perhaps a little more. So that it is unlikely Government would consider our legitimate grievance in the way in which we see it. I am quite in agreement with you that the acceptance of the terms proposed by Government—for the granting of the Uda-Pussellawa Railway—by the district, has been a very severe handicap to those of us who are in it to-day. I should like to see the profit earned on our Railway steadily increased—and go on increasing it must—as

we are a progressing district. More lands have been opened up and the produce has been increasing. When profits on working are assured, that would be the time to send up a deputation. Just now we have not made out a case for the deputation to lay before the Government. We must have a definite case to lay. Without that it seems to me that very little good can come out of the resolution. Certainly no harm can be done by following up the resolution, and I am somewhat reluctant to send up a deputation at this juncture, as it may do us harm when the time is ripe for it to go forward. This being the position, I am quite certain we cannot have the General Manager on our side when we go up before His Excellency, and it is important that the General Manager must be on our side when we go up to ask for relief, and I happen to know that Mr. Greene will not just now consent to any reduction being made. Mr. Nicol mentioned in his speech the Kelani Valley Railway. Now that Railway, as you know, cost Government Rs. 1,800,000 per mile, it is an enormous price.

Mr. NICOL (interpolating): That was because the cost of land was so high.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. Against that the land was flat and not hilly like ours, one would have thought that the cost of construction of Railway there could be much less than what the figures to-day are. They charge there 8 cents for third-class goods per mile, and 37½ cents for other goods, against a uniform 44 cents per mile on the Uda-Pussellawa Railway for all goods. I should not like personally to see this motion carried *in toto*. The suggestion to appoint a Committee from Nuwara Eliya, Maturata and this Association, to ask for figures showing receipts and expenditure on the Nanuoya-Uda-Pussellawa Railway, could be done just now without any harm to the issue of the motion, i.e. relief.

Mr. C. C. WILSON: We do not even get the half-fare on the return ticket; we pay two single fares.

Mr. E. E. NICOL: After all you have urged, sir, I will, with your permission, withdraw my original resolution and frame it differently.

The CHAIRMAN had no objection.

Mr. NICOL thereupon proposed the following resolution: "That this Association invites the Planters' Associations of Maturata and Nuwara Eliya to join this Association, and elect a Committee to request the General Manager, Ceylon Government Railways to supply them with all necessary figures, showing receipts and expenditure on the Nanuoya-Uda-Pussellawa Railway, with a view to discussing the question of rates.

Mr. E. T. C. FARR seconded.—Carried.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we might elect the Committee of this Association to-day. It will make it simpler when we hear from Maturata and Nuwara Eliya.

Mr. A. C. WILSON proposed that Mr. Biddulph and Mr. Nicol be elected to serve on the Railway Committee.

Mr. E. T. C. FARR seconded.—Carried.

Advances to Coolies.

The CHAIRMAN called on Mr. W. A. Gordon to move a resolution in his name.

Mr. GORDON's resolution was as follows:—

"That this Association do strongly advocate that immediate action be taken to obtain legislation to regulate

the existing methods of giving advances to coolies which are demoralising the whole Tamil labour force of the Island." Mr. Gordon pointed out that the Tamil cooly, according to the present system of giving advances, was simply being bought and sold, the biggest bidder getting him. He was thereby getting completely demoralised, and not only that, but the future generation stood to suffer through the large debt of the father being handed down to the son. Proprietors, agents, and superintendents had, for many years past, tried to combine to limit advances, but had failed miserably. The Uda-Pussellawa district had perhaps the best and most settled labour force in the Island, but recently signs were not wanting to show that, if the present system of giving advances was continued, the district was in great danger of losing a great many coolies by their being bought by the biggest bidder. He maintained that legislation was necessary not only to prevent those coolies who were at present very heavily indebted from further demoralisation, but also to protect those who had small advances, and who were at present happy and contented as were those in the Uda-Pussellawa district from being crimped and demoralised. He asked Mr. Hamlin to second him.

Mr. HAMLIN: I am afraid I cannot, as I am against legislation, and we have been advised by Sir Henry McCallum and the leading men of the planting community to leave things alone as they will right themselves. If we go meddling we will have women suffragettes coming to dictate to us how we are to manage our estates.

Mr. GLENNIE: I have a proxy here from Mr. John Gordon sent me for the purpose of voting, I will use it to second Mr. W. Gordon's motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Very well, I am in agreement with Mr. Gordon's motion up to a certain point. This question is an important one. Many present will be reluctant to express views at a general meeting, and in the interest of the subject I think, gentlemen, it will be advisable to move this general meeting into Committee. Will those who are in favour of that proposal hold up their hands?

There was a general show of hands and the meeting for the fourth time went into Committee. The press were authorised to give publication to the following, i.e. "Messrs. Hamlin, Nicol, Wilson, and the Chairman were clear in their views that they should be cautious in regard to rushing into legislation."

The CHAIRMAN further expressed the wish that they should wait a bit longer. As the result of the new Labour Commissioner's efforts as regards recruiting from the Coast, he thought they would find that this year would show a great increase in the numbers of new coolies sent over from India, which would, to a very great extent, minimise the present system of buying and selling coolies.

When the general meeting was immediately after resumed.

Mr. GORDON said he should like to withdraw his motion on the understanding that he would be allowed to bring it up again at a further date, if it be thought fit.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gordon wishes to withdraw his motion before the meeting. Will those in favour of that signify their assent. There was a general response and the motion was declared as withdrawn *sine die*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters from the General Manager, C. G. R., and Messrs. Delmege, Forsyth & Co. re Liquid Fuel drums were read.

The following letters were then read.—

DANGEROUS LEVEL CROSSINGS.

Ceylon Government Railway,
Colombo, 29th October, 1912.

TO HON. SECRETARY,
Uda-Pussellawa Planters' Association.

Sir,
In reply to your letter of the 19th instant, I have the honour to state that I regret I am not in a position to recommend to Government that any special signalling should be erected at any of the crossings between Kandapolla and Brookside. Such signals could not be actuated electrically, and would be extremely costly to instal and maintain, and their efficiency could not be relied upon in this climate.

I am, etc.,
(Signed) G. P. GREENE,
G. M. R.

DANGEROUS CORNERS.

Colombo, 7th January, 1913.

From the DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
TO HON. SECRETARY,
Uda-Pussellawa Planters' Association.

DANGEROUS CORNERS ON CART ROAD BETWEEN
KANDAPOLLA AND ST. MARGARETS.

Sir,
With reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inform you that there are no funds available at present for cutting back dangerous corners on the Kandapolla-St. Margarets road, and I am unable to say when provision for this service will be placed at my disposal.

I am, Sir, etc.,
(Signed) C. A. LOVEGROVE,
for D. P. W.

The meeting generally expressed surprise and regret over the letters from the G. M. R. and D. P. W. It was emphasised that a serious accident would sooner or later occur at some of the many level crossings and dangerous corners on the Kandapolla-Uda-Pussellawa cart road.

SIR HENRY AND LADY MCCALLUM.

At the conclusion of the meeting, on the motion of the Chairman, the meeting signified regret at the departure of Sir Henry and Lady McCallum.

BADULLA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

HOSPITAL, NEW WARD AND EQUIPMENT.

UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF RESTHOUSES.

The Annual General Meeting of the Badulla Planters' Association took place at the Town Hall, Badulla, on Saturday, the 25th instant, at 10 a.m.

Mr. T. G. Elliott, the Chairman of the Association, was in the Chair, and the other members present were Messrs. A. E. Peter, C. S. Peter, J. W. Scott, R. Gatehouse, W. G. B. Dickson, J. W. Balfour Paul, A. E. Ogiivy, R. McDonald Sueter, Mudaliyar A. I. Jainudeen, Jack Rae, R. F. Rhodes, J. D. Walker, J. H. Titterington, G. A. Gore-David, R. B. Jameson, N. F. Palmer, W. B. Coombe, Lieut. Walter, and B. Strachan.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the annual report of the Association was next read by the Secretary, Mr. C. S. PETER.

THE REPORT.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1912.

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting their report for the year under review, being the 29th since the formation of the Association.

MEETINGS.—During the year four General and five Committee Meetings were held.

MEMBERSHIP.—There are 48 estates on the roll of membership, two private and one honorary member.

FINANCE.—The accounts have been audited and show a credit balance in the bank of Rs. 115-87, and Rs. 109-42 due from the hospital ward account. The books and an account of the assets are laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

CROPS.—There has been no prolonged drought during the year, and, although the rainfall has been slightly short of the average, it was well distributed over the twelve months. The majority of the estates have more than obtained their estimates, and prices have been satisfactory.

RUBBER.—A small acreage has opened in this product during the year, but that already in bearing gives satisfactory results. The total acreage in rubber is 2,325½ acres, of which 157 are in partial bearing.

CLEARINGS.—A considerable acreage of new clearings have been added in tea during the year to the present cultivated area not only to the order established parts of the district, but in new directions.

LABOUR.—On the whole labour has been more plentiful and settled in the district. Most estates have been recruiting a considerable number of new coolies from the Coast. Your Committee strongly recommend the keeping of individual accounts and the other recommendations approved of by the Coast Agency Committee.

ROADS.—The state of the main roads leaves much to be desired, and your Committee is of opinion that more supervision is necessary on the Badulla-Bandarawella road, and that the repairs executed on Dikwella-Nuwara Eliya road are quite insufficient to keep the road in order. The District Engineer of Passara is to be congratulated on the improvement shown in the condition of the Passara-Badulla road.

RESTHOUSES.—Your Committee report that the condition of the resthouses still remain unsatisfactory.

MEDICAL.—A roomy new ward has been added to the Badulla Hospital, which should provide ample accommodation for present requirements. The ward is however detached from the main building and is open except for a low wall all round, and your Committee are of opinion that some protection from the cold winds which prevail at nights is most desirable.

VOLUNTEERING.—The C.M.R. continues to flourish, but your Committee would like to see a few more recruits. The C.P.R.C. is being very much better supported than of recent years, and should prove attractive to all who do not belong to the former corps.

TRANSPORT.—In the latter part of the year several cases of rinderpest followed by a serious outbreak of hoof and mouth disease again disorganised transport to an alarming extent. Your Committee can only hope that the prospective railway to Badulla will be pushed forward with the utmost despatch. Mechanical transport may be worth the consideration of individual estates especially considering that cart-hire has practically doubled in the past year or two.—*Badulla Cor.*, January 26th.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

The CHAIRMAN next addressed the meeting as follows :—Gentlemen, in rising to propose the adoption of the Annual Report I do not think it is necessary for me to repeat what the report has gone into at some length. I think that, on the whole, we may congratulate ourselves on having had a very prosperous year. Our crops and prices both of tea and rubber have been good, and to finish up

with we have had what should prove an excellent planting monsoon. On the other hand our transport question has assumed a very serious aspect, and I confess that it is with feelings of misgiving that I look forward to our difficulties in this line for the coming year. However I hope that the washaway, slips and general breakdown of our roads and railway caused by the torrential rains may do good ultimately by rousing the authorities concerned and directing their attention to the deplorable state of our roads. Our Railway to Badulla was sanctioned some months ago and, though I regret that no beginning has been made with it, I am however, assured that the Railway Department is ready to begin work as soon as the heads of Government are sufficiently settled to give them funds. In this connection I am sure that you will all join me in regretting the early departure of H. E. the Governor. I have to thank you all and the members of the Committee for the support you have given me during my year of office, and more especially are my thanks due to our Secretary for the very efficient help he has rendered and the trouble he has taken over every matter that has come before us. I regret very much that he wishes to retire after three years of office.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The proposal to alter rule No. 13 in the constitution for reducing the notice required for a Committee Meeting from 10 to 4 days was carried without dissent.

HOSPITAL VISITOR'S REPORT.

The Hospital visitor's report by Mr. J. W. Balfour Paul was next read and was as follows :—

I visited the hospital at 10 a.m. on the 28th December. The D.M.O. was in charge and nurses and attendants were present. The daily state was males 58, females 41.

The wards all appeared perfectly clean, many of the patients being out on the verandahs. The latrines and bath rooms quite inoffensive, the former much improved by the introduction of Doulton seats. The kitchens have been improved by having proper chimneys built, instead of the tin flue which was not satisfactory. The percentage of cream in the milk appeared to be very satisfactory, especially in the evening milk.

Of the property in the Planters' Wards, a milk jug and a soap dish are broken and should be replaced, also one of the strips of linoleum has been damaged and removed. The D.M.O. suggests that two covers for chamber utensils should be provided. The walls of the ward are cracked, though not recently, which points to defective construction. The new theatre is just about finished, and being lined with white tiles is very clean; the tiles however are not very well laid, and the wood work has a rough and unfinished appearance.

A new ward has been built, iron uprights, wooden rafters and iron roof covered with thatch; the walls however are only 4½ feet high, and, considering the cold and mist prevalent at night, the ward appears most unsafe for patients affected with pulmonary complaints; it has not been used yet, and either the walls should be heightened or stout canvas blinds should be provided.

The store-rooms, grounds and other appointments appeared well kept.

This caused some discussion, and it was eventually resolved that the attention of the P.C.M.O. be drawn to the unsatisfactory condition of the new ward and to the fact of the unfurnished condition of the new operating theatre.

RESTHOUSES.

The meeting next dealt with the question of the condition of the resthouses in the provinces, their insufficient equipment and general unsatisfactory state.

The CHAIRMAN, who also sits on the Board of the Provincial Committee as the representative of the Planting Community, stated that from enquiries made by him and complaints received he was of opinion that the existing conditions were due to a lack of funds.

A discussion ensued, and a proposal that Government be approached with the suggestion and a recommendation from the Association that the Namunukulla resthouse be closed, and the funds thus derived be utilised for the purpose of bettering the conditions prevalent in the others, was adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Read letter from the Secretary of the Ceylon Nursing Association requesting that a member of the Badulla branch be appointed to represent the district. On the motion of Mr. A. E. PETER, seconded by Mr. A. E. OGILVY, it was unanimously resolved that the Rev. E. V. Freeman, of Nuwara Eliya, be kindly requested to represent the district.

RAILWAY WHAREHOUSE RENT.

A reply from the General Manager, C.G.R., was next read, regarding concessions under rule No. 22 of the goods regulations. The reply was to the effect that he regretted that he was unable to grant special concessions in a general manner for the whole district, but that he was willing to consider individual applications from estates removed from Bandarawella. He was of further opinion that a general concession would act as an incentive to the forwarding agents to be taken advantage of by them and might eventually result in the congestion of goods at Bandarawella. The General Manager's reply was considered by the meeting as satisfactory.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

Next followed the election of office-bearers for the current year. The following office-bearers were elected.

CHAIRMAN.—Mr. T. G. Elliott.

SECRETARY.—Mr. Wilfred Rettie.

KANDY COMMITTEE.—Messrs. W. G. B. Dickson and R. Gatehouse.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.—The members of the Kandy Committee and Messrs. A. E. Peter, J. W. Scott, A. E. Ogilvy, R. Macdonald Sueter, C. S. Peter, James Duncan, and A. T. Rettie.

HOSPITAL VISITORS.—Messrs. A. E. Ogilvy and R. Macdonald Sueter.

P. R. C. MEMBER.—Mr. T. G. Elliott.

S. P. C. A. AND COACH INSPECTOR.—Mr. A. E. Peter.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and retiring Secretary, who will, however, continue to act till the formal acceptance of the office by Mr. Wilfred Rettie.

MATURATA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the above P. A. held at Gonakelle Pavilion on Saturday, the January 25th, at 2 p.m. Present:—Messrs. D. Lyall (Chairman), A. V. Croning, T. H. Williams, F. H. M. Vizard, C. F. S. Shaw, W. Cadge, E. B. Robinson, and A. N. Paine.

The notice calling the meeting having been read, the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

The annual and hospital reports were then submitted:—

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1912.

MEMBERSHIP.—There are 16 estate members, the same as last year.

MEETINGS.—Three General Meetings were held during last year.

FINANCE.—There is a credit balance of Rs 51.27 as against Rs. 19.87 last year.

MEDICAL.—Your Association has pleasure in pointing out the good hospital report, and thanking Mr. Cadge, your hospital visitor, for his trouble on behalf of the Association.

LABOUR is fairly settled in the district, and with the local Sinhalese, about sufficient.

THE LOCAL LABOUR AGREEMENT is working well, and keeping coolies from moving about in the district.

HEALTH of the coolies has on the whole been good, though there was some influenza during June and July. No infectious diseases were reported.

CROP AND PRICES realised during the year have been satisfactory.

PESTS.—The district is quite free from Pests and none have been reported.

ESTIMATE FOR 1913.—3,100,000 lbs. tea off 6,000 acres, an average of 525 lbs. per acre.

CARDAMOM CROP was very short, but prices ruled very high, and this product paid exceedingly well.

REPORT ON MATURATA HOSPITAL.

I visited Maturata Hospital on January 17th, 1913, and was shown round by the District Medical Officer, Dr. Chellapah.

Two wards for ordinary cases for men and women were occupied at the time of my visit by nineteen patients, eleven men and twelve women and children.

The wards and bedrooms were spotlessly clean and well aired, also the patients were being attended to satisfactorily.

The two surgical wards, one with ten beds in for men, and the other with six beds for women, were not occupied. Three wards have lately been improved by making them fly-proof, with double doors and small meshed netting on the inner side of all the windows. Besides three wards there is one single room ward for paying patients, which is at the back of the hospital by the kitchen facing north, and owing to the heavy rain lately the northern wall is a little damp, also the wall of the theatre, which also faces north.

I visited the kitchen, but did not see the food prepared or served up, it being the wrong time of day. In consequence of the masons being at work repairing one of the stoves and chimney half the room was in use.

The theatre has also been made fly-proof and a bigger window has been put in which is a great improvement, but I think the damp might be prevented from damaging the northern walls in future by facing them with cement, also when the weather permits a coating of varnish on the doors and paint on the beams would not be amiss.

The hospital is kept scrupulously clean and reflects great credit on the D. M. O. and his assistants.

(Signed) WILLIAM CADGE.

January 17th, 1913.

FORESTS AND ESTATE BOUNDARIES.

The following letter was read:—

Office of the Conservator of Forests,
Kandy, 22nd January, 1913.

A. W. PAINE, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary, Maturata, P.A.,
Ellamulla, Maturata.

Sir,

Referring to your letter of 24th December, 1912, I have the honour to reply that I am informed that the Superintendents of the adjoining estates were twice consulted by the Forester who erected the posts.

2. The present primary object of the posts is to effect a provincial demarcation of a forest boundary which may eventually be accepted or rejected.

3. The Assistant Conservator of Forest at Nuwara Eliya reports that Mr. Paine is at perfect liberty to clear and plant right up to the posts, provided he or his predecessors has correctly informed the demarcation officer who put up the posts, so that it would appear that the posts apart from demarcating a special area for forest conservancy purposes effect in this case a dividing line between private and Crown properties.

4. I would again remind you of paragraph 3 of my earlier letter, which was placed before your Association

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. J. S. TURNER,
Acting Conservator of Forests.

DISCUSSION ON THE CONSERVATOR OF FOREST'S LETTER.

Mr. Paine said it was not a question of planting right up to, but beyond, the posts as on both Ellamulle and Galella estates they had been placed right inside the estate boundaries. On Madura Nuwara estate too the posts were quite wrong. He said that he was not in the district at the time of the erection of these posts, and asked those present if they had ever been consulted by the Forest Department as to their boundaries. [None of them remembered ever having been so.] It seemed to be a great waste of money to effect a provisional demarcation which may eventually be adopted or rejected. After some more discussion the matter dropped, the meeting thinking Mr. Paine's best plan was to have personal interview with the Conservator of Forests.

DISTRICT ROADS.

Mr. WILLIAMS, the local representative on the D.R.C., said he had received a letter from the Chairman, D.R.C., stating that in future he was unable to allow a representative from the Uda-Pussellawa or Maturata, P.A.'s as Dimbula, hitherto unrepresented, wished to have their member on the Committee. Resolved:—"That this Association regrets the decision of the D.R.C., and asks them to reconsider their decision, and to state that Uda-Pussellawa and Maturata were two very big and scattered districts, and that these districts should certainly be represented on the D.R.C." It was also resolved:—"To forward this resolution to the Uda-Pussellawa P. A. for their support."

Mr. WILLIAMS then read the following letter to Chairman, P.R.C.

Bramley, Kandapola,
21st, January, 1913.

THE CHAIRMAN,
Provincial Road Committee,
Nuwara Eliya.

Dear Sir,

I visited the Seaton-Maturata and Matigold-Maturata roads yesterday. Both these roads are in a terrible state and will cost thousands of rupees to put into order, in many places an entire new trace will have to be made. I shall be obliged if you will send a Government Officer to report on the roads as soon as possible, they are both very important and are, of course, quite impossible for horse traffic. Owing to the exceedingly wet weather that we have been having lately there is a considerable amount of sickness in the district, and the D.M.O. informed me yesterday that he was not strong enough to do the work on foot.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) T. H. WILLIAMS.

TELEPHONES.

After some discussion it was resolved to hold this matter over to the next meeting and to obtain more details.

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LOCAL LABOUR AGREEMENT.

All present agreed to sign the Local Labour Agreement for 1913.

TODDY TAVERNS.

Read letter from A.G.A., Nuwara Eliya, re closing of Manakela toddy tavern. Several present having spoken to the bad effects it had on their labour force, it was unanimously agreed to ask to have it closed at an early date.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

Mr. Lyall having vacated the Chair, Mr. Williams was elected Chairman *pro tem*.

Mr. WILLIAMS proposed, and Mr. VIZARD seconded, that Mr. Lyall be re-elected Chairman.—Carried unanimously.

Mr. LYALL, having briefly returned thanks for his re-election as Chairman, proposed Mr. Vizard as Hon. Secretary.—Carried unanimously.

Mr. LYALL then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Paine for having acted as Hon. Secretary for the last two years.—Carried unanimously.

The following were elected office-bearers for 1913:—Kandy representative, Planters' Benevolent Fund Committee Member and Ceylon Nursing Home Committee Member: Mr. C. F. S. Shaw; Hospital Visitor: Mr. W. Cadge.

The meeting terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) FRANK H. M. VIZARD,
Hon. Secretary.

NUWARA ELIYA DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

Mr. E. C. ELLIOTT RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN.

The Annual General Meeting of the Nuwara Eliya Planters' Association was held at the Hill Club, Nuwara Eliya, on Saturday, January 25th, at 1.30 p.m. It was preceded by a Committee Meeting at 1 p.m. Mr. E. C. Elliott, the Chairman of the Association, presided at both meetings. *Present*:—Messrs. R. G. Bayley, A. L. Sinclair, R. Megginson, S. F. Greig, E. H. Mellor and A. C. W. Ferguson, Hon. Secretary.

After Preliminaries,

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was to elect office-bearers for 1913. Before vacating the chair, he wished to express his thanks to Mr. Ferguson, Hon. Secretary, for so ably carrying out the duties of Hon. Secretary. He was sure they all regretted the enforced acceptance of his resignation—as he was going home. (Cheers.)

Mr. R. G. BAYLEY proposed that Mr. Mellor take the chair *pro tem*.

Mr. R. G. MEGGINSON seconded.—Carried.

Mr. MELLOR proposed that "we record a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Elliott, who has just retired from the chair, for the work he has done for us." (Cheers.)

Mr. MELLOR proposed the re-election of Mr. Elliott as Chairman.

Mr. E. C. ELLIOTT: Chairman and gentlemen, I think it will be a good thing for you to have a change of

chairman, and I think you ought to put forward the name of some other member.

Mr. R. G. BAYLEY's name was suggested, but he begged to be excused.

The CHAIRMAN then put his motion, *i.e.*, the re-election of Mr. Elliott, to the meeting, and it was carried with acclamation.

Mr. E. C. ELLIOTT in resuming the chair said: Gentlemen, I thank you very much for electing me again as your Chairman. It will give me much pleasure to do all I can for the Association. (Cheers.) As I said before I still hold to the opinion that you could have done better with a change of Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN said he had much pleasure in proposing the name of Mr. Megginson for the office of Hon. Secretary.

Mr. MEGGINSON thought Mr. Mellor would make an excellent Secretary.

Mr. MEGGINSON was elected with unanimous voting.

Mr. MEGGINSON remarked that he had never served on any Committee and had no experience. (Laughter.) [A member: It is too late now. Thank the meeting for electing you (more laughter.)]

Mr. MEGGINSON thanked the meeting and said he would try to do his best. (Cheers.)

ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE.

The following Committee was then elected:—

NUWARA ELIYA.—Messrs. N. W. Davies and N. G. Campbell.

NANUOYA.—Mr. W. P. Spurway and Mr. N. G. Campbell's successor on Mahagastota estate.

KANDAPOLA.—Messrs. R. G. Bayley and A. J. Volum.

NEW GALLWEY.—Mr. L. Watkins Baker.

RAMBODA.—Mr. E. H. Mellor.

KANDY REPRESENTATIVES.—Messrs. N. W. Davies and N. G. Campbell.

HOSPITAL VISITORS.

Mr. A. C. W. FERGUSON proposed the appointment of the Chairman and Mr. W. P. Spurway.

Mr. R. G. BAYLEY seconded.—Carried.

PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

Resolved:—"That Mr. N. G. Campbell be written to and invited to represent the Nawalapitiya D. P. A."

AUDITOR.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that Mr. Megginson, the incoming Secretary, be elected to audit Mr. Ferguson, the retiring Hon. Secretary's accounts for 1913. He said that, as Mr. Megginson would be responsible to the Association for the large (!) balance of Rs. 51.80 at the credit of the Association, he should be the person to audit the accounts. He added that that was what was done by Mr. Ferguson when he took over from Mr. Coulson.

The motion was then put and carried.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report was then before the meeting and was as follows:—

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

During the past year four Committee meetings and four General meetings have been held. The average attendance has been rather disappointing.

The total number of subscriptions to the Association is 22, representing 16 estates and six private voters. Following upon a dry year in 1911, year under review showed an even greater shortage in rainfall, but owing to the adoption of liberal cultivation on most estates in the district the drought had but slight effect upon the tea, and crop estimates were more or less realised.

The market has been satisfactory and excellent prices have been obtained both in London and Colombo for all teas with any quality and flavour.

LABOUR throughout the district has been sufficient for normal requirements, and advances have remained more or less stationary. A very considerable number of coolies have been recruited from the Coast, largely through the Ceylon Labour Agency, and this has helped to keep down the average rate per head.

The general health of the coolies has been good, and no epidemics of a serious nature have occurred.

The price of rice was not excessive during the first half of the year, but a considerable and steady rise has taken place since.

The support accorded to the Planters' Benevolent Fund has been well maintained, the majority of estates and members subscribing thereto. There have been several outbreaks of rinderpest during the year, but no serious loss or inconvenience was experienced by the estates in this Association, which are practically independent of cart transport. This Association noted with satisfaction the prompt and effective steps taken by the A. G. A., Nuwara Eliya, to deal with this disease.

One significant event of the year was the strike among the native drivers, firemen and other hands on the C. G. R., and it is to be hoped that the report of the Commission appointed by the Government to enquire into the grievances of its employers will lead to a permanent settlement. In view of the approaching departure of the A. G. A., Nuwara Eliya, the Association will place on record its appreciation of the courtesy and attention with which Mr. R. A. G. Festing has treated all matters of interest to its members which have arisen during his *regime*.

The funds of the Association are in a satisfactory condition. The balance amounting to Rs. 51.80 which is Rs. 25.23 less than that carried forward last year. The reduction is accounted for by two items of extraordinary expenditure: the purchase of a cyclostyle for the Secretary at a cost of Rs. 30, and the sum of Rs. 21.26 voted at a general meeting held on March 4th towards the expenses of the Association representative on the special Labour Committee.

The report and accounts were then adopted.

HOSPITAL VISITORS' REPORT.

Mahagastota, Nuwara Eliya,
21st January, 1913.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
Nawalapitiya D. P. A.

Dear Sir,

I have visited the Baker's Ward, Nuwara Eliya, every now and then and have always found the rooms bright and clean, the patients well looked after, comfortable and contented. The new buildings attached for the accommodation of the nurses should be a great acquisition, as it will leave all four rooms free for patients with nurses close at hand. I did not go over the house and table linen as the nurse told me it was in good order and sufficient with the exception of a few things for which I give list below:

- 1 dozen pillow cases 27 x 18 with flap at opening.
- 1 dozen face towels.
- 2 dozen dusters.

I noticed another easy chair or two were required; also that the table cloth in sitting room looked old and faded.

There are a number of large trees growing on the left side of the building and very much too close to it, some of which should be cut out. Numbers of branches overshadow the roof and some actually touch it. This must make the two wards on this side of the building damp.

Mr. W. POYNTZ SPURWAY'S REPORT.

STAFF.—The D. M. O., Dr. Poulier was not present at date of my visit, so the D. M. A., Dr. Schokman accompanied me round the hospital. All other members of the staff were in the hospital.

PATIENTS.—There were 35 patients under indoor treatment, 7 males in the infectious diseases ward, and 17 males and 11 females in the ordinary wards, including one European patient in the Baker Ward. I received no complaints of any kind. The daily average of patients treated per month during the past year is as follows:—

January ...	42-41	July ...	48-06
February ...	33-20	August ...	42-26
March ...	37-61	September ...	46-56
April ...	40-10	October ...	47-25
May ...	48-90	November ...	40-36
June ...	49-33	December ...	39-22

Maximum number of patients on any given day 58.

WARDS.—Accommodation in ordinary wards 40 beds

"	Baker	"	4	"
"	Maternity	"	2	"
"	Infectious	"	12	"

another ward to accommodate a further 16 beds is in course of erection, and has apparently been under construction for a number of months. I was unable to obtain any definite information as to the probable date of completion of the work, but would suggest that the need for the new ward being available for patients by April at latest is in view of figures given above, imperative, if over-crowding is to be avoided during the unhealthy season.

OPERATING ROOM.—A fly-proof room, very well kept, and in excellent order. I am told that there is a shortage of certain necessary operating instruments.

LATRINES.—Four blocks, only three of which are fly-proofs, in good order and clean.

KITCHEN.—The building is supposed to be fly-proof, but at date of visit I saw more flies inside the kitchen than outside. Repairs are needed to the gauge. Clean and in good order.

GROUNDS.—With the exception of the Baker Ward grounds others are in very bad order. I am informed that this is unavoidable owing to the building work going on. Water lies about in large pools, and cannot be healthy.

(Signed) W. POYNTZ SPURWAY.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I think we had better deal with the reports read, as they were put before you. The Secretary in the meanwhile will note what we have to say about the recommendations suggested to us in the reports of our visitors. As regards Mr. Campbell's suggestion for cutting down and lopping branches of the trees on the left of the Baker Ward, I think he should write to the P. C. M. O. and have that suggestion carried out, as it is a very important one as it particularly affects the health of the ward. As regards the list of linen required, I think the Government should be asked to provide it. In 1908 we collected from among those interested in the Baker Ward a sum of Rs 1,300 and furnished the ward with all that at the time was found necessary. Should Government not comply, then we could raise a small fund and provide the linen. Coming to Mr. Spurway's report, we should forcibly point out that, regarding the alleged shortage of operating instruments in an important hospital like Nuwara Eliya, this should never be.

Mr. A. L. SINCLAIR: We might ask that the hospital be given a microscope.

The CHAIRMAN: Have they not got one?

Mr. A. L. SINCLAIR: I won't be sure.

The CHAIRMAN: You might enquire and we can then ask for it. We might also suggest that it would be desirable to have the latrine in block 4 made fly-proof.

Mr. A. C. W. FERGUSON proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be placed on record of the appreciation of Mr. Sinclair's services to the Association as hospital visitor, in which capacity he has served for two or three years.

The CHAIRMAN: Over four years.

Mr. FERGUSON (continuing): Now that he has had to give it up because he is going home, I think you will agree that he well deserves our thanks. I also like to propose a similar vote of thanks to Mrs. Campbell. I ought to have mentioned the lady first, and also to Mr. Spurway. (Cheers.)

Mr. MELLOR seconded.—Carried.

Resolved:—"That Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Spurway be written to and thanked, and that copies of the resolution be also forwarded to them."

UDA-PUSSELLAWA LABOUR FEDERATION.

The CHAIRMAN enquired from Mr. Ferguson what were the replies he had to the circular he sent out.

Mr. FERGUSON: All estates signed the list excepting Heathersett and Warwick; these may yet join. Scrubs was the only estate that absolutely refused to sign.

The CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. Mactier would join if you write and tell him that all others have agreed to the Uda-Pussellawa scheme.

The CHAIRMAN: I have never taken coolies from my neighbours.

Mr. R. G. BAYLEY: When will the scheme come into force?

The CHAIRMAN: I suppose from the time you agree to the proposed terms of federation.

A RESOLUTION.

Resolved:—"That the Uda-Pussellawa P. A. be informed that all estates under the Nuwara Eliya D. P. A. have agreed to bind themselves on the terms set out excepting Scrubs, Heathersett, and Warwick estates."

Mr. A. L. SINCLAIR: I have signed the circular, but cannot vouch to bind my successor.

The CHAIRMAN: I know him well, and I am sure he will support the scheme.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The CHAIRMAN: The next business is correspondence. The Hon. Secretary will read them to you.

REFUSE DESTROYER.

The HON. SECRETARY read letter from the Chairman, Board of Improvement, informing the Association that a Refuse Destructor had been erected on the Sewage Farm, and that it had been completed at the end of last year.

The CHAIRMAN said the Refuse Destructor had been experimented with. The weather had been against anything appreciable being done. He hoped to be able to give the members further information in regard to the experiments at their next meeting.

ALEXANDER WARDROP MEMORIAL FUND.

The correspondence on this subject was laid on the table.

LIQUID FUEL DRUMS.

Letters from Messrs. Delmege, Forsyth & Co., on the subject of cleansing, emptying, and scraping the empty drums and the restricted conditions on which they would be accepted for transit were read in and contents noted.

BEER AND PORTER LICENSES.

The HON. SECRETARY read a letter from the A. G. A., Nuwara Eliya, enclosing copy of an application from the

Manager, Ceylon Brewery, asking for the license to sell wholesale and retail beer and porter at the Hawa Eliya and Kandapolla bazaars. He also read a letter from the Chairman, of the Nuwara Eliya P. A., in which it was stated that the Chairman had no objection to a license being granted for the sale of beer and porter at the Hawa Eliya bazaar, but he could not answer about the Kandapolla bazaar without referring the question to the planters resident there.

Mr. R. G. BAYLEY: I am strongly opposed to a license being allowed to Kandapolla. When they had a license there every Sinhalese man about the place was drunk, especially on Saturday evenings. Messrs. Hutson & Co. had difficulty over their labour. We had it closed. In those days the Kandapolla Agency was their biggest Agency.

Mr. A. L. SINCLAIR: What year was that?

Mr. R. G. BAYLEY: That was in 1895. There is no demand for it now.

Mr. A. C. W. FERGUSON: I am also strongly opposed to a license being allowed there. We have refused our consent to allow license for arrack taverns. Why should we allow them in the case of beer and porter.

Mr. R. G. BAYLEY proposed that the Nuwara Eliya Association do not recommend a license for sale of beer and porter at the Kandapolla bazaar.

Mr. A. C. W. FERGUSON seconded.—Carried.

CEYLON LABOUR COMMISSIONER'S SUGGESTION.

Connected letters from the Parent Association and Mr. W. H. Scoble Nicholson re tickets to coolies proceeding to the Coast were read.

The CHAIRMAN thought Mr. Scoble Nicholson's suggestion a most excellent idea. There was no doubt that coolies were being fleeced by sharks. He was very strongly in support of the suggested ticket system and meant to avail himself straightaway of the facilities afforded by the system.

Mr. R. G. BAYLEY: It's a matter for individuals, is it not?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

DAINGEROUS CULVERT.

Mr. A. C. W. FERGUSON said he wished to call the attention of the District Engineer through the Association to the culvert near the Brewery. It was too small to carry away the flow of water from the hospital stream in wet weather. Early in the month, when the rains were on, the stream overflowed and washed away the metal and left the road in a bad way.

Mr. R. G. BAYLEY: The road was repaired after the rains early this month. The spot is a most dangerous one, and it is impossible to say which is road and which is stream when the stream overflows the culvert.

The CHAIRMAN: The culvert needs to be widened or raised to carry away the flow.

Resolved that the attention of the District Engineer be called to the danger to motorists and other vehicles when negotiating the point of the road after heavy rains.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair proposed by Mr. MELLOR and seconded by Mr. A. L. SINCLAIR.

PASSARA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The following is the annual report for 1912, presented at the annual meeting of the Passara P. A. held to-day:—

Your Committee has pleasure in presenting the 20th annual report of this Association.

MEMBERSHIP.—34 estates against 34 in 1911.

MEETINGS.—Four General and four Committee meetings have been held. The attendance of members at the meetings was very good.

FINANCES.—The accounts duly audited are laid upon the table. They show a balance at credit of Rs. 294.22 against Rs. 303.38 last year.

ACREAGE AND CROPS.

	Acreeage in Bearing.	Not in Bearing.	Approximate Crop 1912.	Yield per acre.	Estimate 1913
Tea ...	11,580	932	5,980,622	516	6,641,100
Rubber ...	4,401	2,792	356,367	83	556,160
Tea & Rubber	6,504	—	—	—	—
Cocoa ...	—	—	346 cwt.	—	—
Total...	22,485	—	—	—	—

TEA.—The year has on the whole been a good one for crop, though perhaps not so good as 1911, as crops have fallen slightly short of estimate. Rainfall has been considerably short of the average, though fairly well distributed. Tea generally has been free of pest and blights. Prices have been good.

RUBBER.—The weather was favourable for tapping operations generally throughout the year. Rainfall was below the average, but was well distributed. Estimates in most cases were realised. Prices realised for Uva rubber compared favourably with those obtained for rubber produced in other districts.

COCOA.—A small cocoa crop was harvested. The cocoa on most estates has been cut out with a view to improving growth of interplanted rubber and can hardly be considered now as a product of the district.

LABOUR.—Practically no improvement can be reported under this heading. In the last annual report your Committee pointed out that the Association had passed a resolution favouring the suggestions of the Coast Agency Committee. The most important of these suggestions were—(1.) To pay coolies' expenses of travelling from their village to the estate. (2.) To keep coolies' accounts with their kanganies. Your Committee hopes that these two suggestions are being carried out on all estates belonging to this Association. The large increase in estimated rubber crop will alone require a large increase in the Labour Force, and your Committee hopes that every endeavour will be made to recruit the necessary number of new coolies from the coast and not from other estates. The construction of the railway to Badulla will make a further demand for labour, and your Committee hopes that Government will import sufficient for their own requirements both for railway construction and P. W. D. works. The Passara Labour Federation has undoubtedly done good, and will continue to do so. At the same time your Committee would warn members against too much interference with the liberty of the coolies in cases where they show a desire to change to other estates for other reasons than merely to secure higher advances. Too much interference with their liberty in this respect may tend to make the district unpopular.

MAIN ROADS.—Your Committee regrets that there is no practical or permanent improvement to be reported in connection with the Badulla-Bandarawella road. Your Committee again wishes to place on record its appreciation of the excellent condition of the main roads supervised by the District Engineer, Passara. Work has been commenced on the Passara-Nakala road, but your Committee is much disappointed at the small progress made. At the present slow rate of progress it will be many years before Moneragalla is connected with Passara by

the cart road. Your Committee congratulates the Moneragalla members on obtaining an increased expenditure on the Wellawaya-Mupane road, and upon the consequent improving condition of that road. Your Committee regrets that in spite of estimates, etc., having been made and submitted by the District Engineer nothing further has been done on the question of strengthening the culverts and widening the Passara-Madulsima cart road, and considers that Government should be further urged to undertake this necessary work.

MINOR ROADS AND P. R. C.—Your Committee is pleased to be able to report that the appointment of an additional superintendent of minor roads has been sanctioned for 1913.

RESTHOUSES AND RESTHOUSE-KEEPERS show an improvement in some cases, but in others still leave a lot to be desired. Improvements are to be effected to the Badulla Resthouse, and your Committee hopes that the new Resthouse at Badalkumbra on the Passara-Nakala road will be built in 1913.

TRANSPORT.—Rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease have been very prevalent in the district and other parts of Uva during the year. Transport generally has been very much upset. Your Committee is of opinion that after the first few weeks of the outbreak Government realised the urgent necessity of checking these diseases and took all available precautions. At the same time there is no doubt that these cattle diseases have become so thoroughly established in the villages that it is probable they will never be eradicated, and that it is essential to the future prosperity of, at any rate, the out-lying parts of the district, that Government should immediately improve and strengthen the main roads to admit mechanical transport. Your Committee cannot help thinking that unless Government can see their way to taking this work in hand at an early date there is the grave possibility, if not probability, of famine in out-lying districts. Should this occur your Committee would place on record that the responsibility entirely rests with Government.

RAILWAYS.—Your Committee congratulates the Association, in that the railway to Badulla is sanctioned by the Secretary of State, but would at the same time strongly urge the Association to carry on the agitation for its continuance to Passara.

HOSPITALS.—Reports from the various hospitals are appended. It is satisfactory to note that in many cases improvements suggested by hospital visitors are to be carried out.

PAY OF HEADMEN.—Your Committee regrets that no steps appear to have been taken by Government with a view to improving the pay, and consequently the status of town and village headmen. The thanks of the Association are due to certain members for exposing a very flagrant case of bribery which occurred locally.

EXCISE REFORM.—The new excise reform came into force in the middle of the year. In the last annual report it was recorded that "The sub-Committee appointed by the Association to consider the subject resolved that it approved of the reform suggested provided local option be retained." A list of few taverns was circulated, but partly owing to the celerity with which the whole matter was pushed through partly owing to somewhat (to planters) unfamiliar names used no objections were raised to any new taverns within the prescribed period. It may fairly be said that planters had the opportunity of objecting to these excise reforms in general, and to the situation of new taverns locally in particular, but failed to realise until the reforms and taverns were accomplished facts how antagonistic, in some cases, they were to their interests. Your Committee, however, considers that the establishing of so many taverns in close proximity to estates was uncalled for and liable to instil drinking habits in coolies entirely for the benefit of the renters.

Your Committee has pleasure in recording that in several cases where objections have been raised taverns have been moved, and, at the same time, would recommend members to study very carefully any notifications re opening and closing of arrack and toddy taverns which may be circulated by the Association.

OBITUARY.—Your Committee, with much regret, has to place on record the death of Mrs. James Duncan.

(Signed) J. P. IRESON,
Hon. Secretary, P. P. A.

SABARAGAMUWA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

ELECTION OF A NEW CHAIRMAN.

RATNAPURA-KUKUL KORALE ROAD.

The Annual Meeting of the Sabaragamuwa Planters' Association was held on Saturday afternoon at the Wace Memorial Hall. Mr. George M. Crabbe presided, and those present were:—Messrs. H. Drummond Hay, P. D. G. Clark, P. S. Bridge, J. Hawke, W. S. Davidson, A. E. Pieters, A. J. Ingram, B. A. Thornhill, G. H. Coldwell, F. Lecky-Watson, A. D. Sly, E. R. E. Geddes, H. Pearson, C. Watkins Baker, J. L. Grierson, D. P. Macdonald, R. Searancke, C. E. Williams, J. Staddon, C. Baldwin, A. P. Craib, R. Schofield, L. D. S. Trelawney, H. G. Greig, W. A. Lovat-Fraser, G. Hawkins, J. L. Mackie, R. C. Bingham, G. B. Mathews, L. E. Russell, John Paterson, D. Robertson, A. D. Atkins, and J. D. Hoare (Hon. Secretary). The following visitors were also present. Mr. E. B. Alexander, Government Agent; Mr. H. Goonasekera, R.M.; Mr. E. A. Elapata, R.M.; and Mr. S. D. Mahawalatenne.

The minutes of the previous general meeting having been confirmed, the Hon. SECRETARY read the annual report of the Association.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

PRELIMINARY.—Your Committee have much pleasure in presenting this their eighth annual report, and feel that the increasing prosperity of the district and the stern position that has been held by its two main products are matters for great satisfaction.

REGISTER OF MEMBERS.—Private members this year five as against last year four, and estates this year fifty-eight as against last year. Total area opened this year:—37,887½ acres, as against last year's 32,775 acres made up as follows:—Tea 16,334 acres, rubber 21,430 acres, camphor 1½ acres, coconuts 28 acres, tea seed bearers 62 acres, and cardamoms 32 acres.

MEETINGS.—There have been four General meetings preceded by Committee meetings, and seven meetings of the Committee formed to deal with matters arising out of the opening of the Ratnapura railway. Your Committee are pleased to be able to state that these meetings have all been very well attended.

CROP.—Tea this season 6,758,735 lbs. as against last year 5,255,869 lbs. and rubber this season 785,623 lbs. as against last season's 344,200 lbs.

RATNAPURA RAILWAY.—The formal opening of this line took place on April 18th, 1912, and on that occasion the Association had the honour of entertaining His Excellency the Governor and numerous guests to dinner, upon which occasion many affairs incidental and important to the district were put forward. Your Committee would like to place on record the deep sensibility of the Association of the great honour that was done them on that occasion, and to express the hope that relations between the representatives of His Majesty's Government and the Planters' Associations will ever be as cordial as they were on that occasion.

It is in every way a matter for congratulation that after thirteen years' strenuous efforts in agitating for the Railway we should have attained our desire, and we have little hesitation in saying that this Association was the main factor in procuring this long-felt want.

PELMADULLA RAILWAY.—Your Committee are happy to report that the work of construction of this line has already been begun, and this again is through the persevering energy of your Association, who do not wish to rest on their laurels, but are now pressing forward the necessity of carrying the Railway to Kahawatte, of which a lot will be heard in the near future.

PESTS.—Your Committee are pleased to be able to report that our district continues to be fairly free from pests.

ROADS.—Your Committee consider that there are still some urgent needs in the district for further extensions of roads, and trust that during the coming year greater progress will be made with these.

ARRACK TAVERNS. While wishing in every way to acquiesce with Government in connection with the new Excise Ordinance, we view with apprehension the apparent necessity of placing taverns close to established labour forces, and trust that mutual correspondence between the Government Agent and the planting community will meet the wishes of all those who are interested.

MEDICAL WANTS.—We are generally satisfied with progress, but would point out that the district is increasing in numbers more especially with regard to the Tamil population, and that Government must be prepared to keep pace with the times and meet all urgent requirements that the district places before them, and which are proved to be absolutely necessary for the benefit of the immigrant labour force brought over from South India.

RABIES ORDINANCE.—Your Committee considers that it is a matter for some regret that this measure, which they consider to be a valuable one, should not be carried in its entirety; dogs in the villages and along the cart roads are not apparently being registered or shot to the same extent that exists on estates.

STRAY CATTLE.—We note with pleasure that there is a decrease in the number of stray cattle to be met with along the roads, but it is incumbent upon Government Officials to continue to keep this nuisance in abeyance. There is still room for improvement, and we hope that this nuisance will be eliminated in time.

RAILWAY AND POSTAL SERVICES.—Your Association earlier in the year drew the attention of Government to the necessity of either duplicating the existing line or converting it into a broad-gauge one, and hopes that the refusal of Government to do this will be justified by an entire absence of congestion that had such disastrous results during the year under review. Your Committee would further point out that if the railway were carried on to Opanaika it would be a safeguard to the Haputale and Uva districts in the event of dislocation of the main line and obstruction of the Batticaloa out-let which has lately occurred.

As regards the Postal services there is ample room for improvement which might possibly be improved by better organisation.

ALL-CYLON EXHIBITION took place during the year when your district was well represented. Your Committee are confident that these Exhibitions are for the benefit of and tend to promote planting enterprise generally, and have much satisfaction in noting that some of the members of this Association were able to carry off prizes both in tea and rubber.

RINDERPEST.—Your Committee have much pleasure in reporting that the district has been fairly free from rinderpest during the past year.

WEATHER.—The rainfall has been beyond the average and tea crops have suffered in consequence, at the same time with high cultivation, returns have been very satisfactory.

BENEVOLENT FUND.—It is a matter for regret that all the members have not come to the front in supporting this fund, and your Committee would again urge upon members the desirability of joining this deserving institution.

PRICES FOR TEA AND RUBBER have both been well maintained, and both these products as far as can be seen have excellent prospects before them.

LABOUR.—It is a well-known fact that this district is one of the foremost in importing labour direct from the Coast, and it is gratifying to note that the planting community work in unison, as far as this district is concerned, the rates of pay ruling are on a generous scale and sufficient to induce big influx of labour from the Coast, as the district becomes better known. It is gratifying to note that the indigenous Sinhalese out-turn on estates is increasing annually and herein lie one of the safeguards and benefits of the Low-country districts, while the Kandyan chiefs have often expressed their pleasure in the benefits that the villagers have derived from the opening up of large tracts in rubber, which has not only brought prosperity to the European community but to themselves as well.

In conclusion it is a pleasure to note the great cordiality that has existed between the planting community and Government officials which, we trust, will continue to exist.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW.

The CHAIRMAN said that in presenting the annual report to the meeting there were a few words he should like to say in connection with the year under review. He was very glad indeed that their meetings during the past year had been very well attended, and it was very gratifying to see such a large gathering present for their annual meeting—a gathering which was probably a record for a meeting of the Association. With regard to the district, new men were constantly coming in and new land was being opened up, and, as had often been said before, Sabaragamuwa was going to be one of the finest districts in the Island. (Applause.) During the past year the Association had not had a great many matters of importance to deal with. The one great event of the year was the opening of the Ratnapura Railway. Most of those present would probably remember that occasion. (Laughter.) “But,” said the Chairman, “we do not for one moment think that that is the finality of the railway as far as this district is concerned. (Applause.) No sooner was that completed than His Excellency the Governor backed us up so well that the Pelmadulla railway was sanctioned and the work is now being carried out. (Applause.) Not satisfied with that, we go still one further in connection with railway extension, and we are now asking for a continuation of the line to Kahawatte. There is nothing excessive in our demand, and it merely means the laying down of a few more miles of rails. We have very sound reasons for asking for that further extension. It will benefit not only this district, but other districts which some day may want the railway very badly. At present the main line has broken down and the Batticaloa out-let has been closed. What has happened this year may occur in future years, and as that district expands similar breakdowns will become more and more serious as time goes on, and it is only reasonable to think that Government should look ahead for the benefit of the Colony generally and see that they have some other out-let in case of emergencies.”

The CHAIRMAN, in conclusion, said the district generally had gone ahead with great strides, and the prosperity was seen all round. It was not only the European community which had benefited, but the native community as well, and he thought that was generally recognised.

Mr. H. DRUMMOND HAY proposed and Mr. P. D. G. CLARK seconded the adoption of the report, which was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN.

The CHAIRMAN then expressed the pleasure that it had given him to be able to do what he could for the Association during the past year. He said he had always taken a keen interest in the district, and if there was anything that he could do in the future to benefit the Association and the district he would be very glad to do it. (Applause.) The Chairman then retired from office.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CRABBE.

Mr. H. DRUMMOND HAY was voted to the chair *pro tem*. Proposing a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman, he explained that Mr. Crabbe, in accepting the position of

Chairman for the past year, had pulled the Association out of an awkward situation. Mr. Crabbe was not a new member of the district, nor was he a new Chairman. He might say that he was one of the founders of that district and one of the founders of that Association. He had acted as their Chairman for four years, and it was owing to his chairmanship that they were in the position they occupied at the present time. Mr. Crabbe had done his work years ago, and he had no idea of taking on the chairmanship again last year. But something happened, and a Chairman was wanted and Mr. Crabbe very kindly came forward. He was perfectly certain that, if the Association were ever in the same plight again, Mr. Crabbe would come to their assistance, and he contended that one of the greatest assets they had in that Association was a man such as Mr. Crabbe had proved himself to be. (Applause.) They owed him a great debt of gratitude for what he had done for them, and he was sure that in the future they would still be in his debt.

Mr. GEDDES seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. DRUMMOND HAY said that having talked about the past they must now think about the future. They knew that in that district they owned some of the finest rubber trees in the Island, and they had owned and still owned some of the finest tea bushes in the Island. (Applause.) He thought they had now got hold of the very finest tea bush in the district to come forward and manage the affairs of the Association. (Loud applause.) He had great pleasure in proposing that Mr. Geddes be asked to take over the Chairmanship for the coming year. (Applause.) He did not think they could possibly get hold of a better man for the post.

Mr. P. BRIDGE seconded and the motion was enthusiastically agreed to.

Mr. Geddes then took the chair.

THE NEW CHAIRMAN.

Mr. GEDDES said he was sensible of the honour that had been paid to him, and he would do his best to maintain the high standard which had been set by previous Chairmen. Fortunately he had got an exceptionally capable Secretary to help him, and with his assistance and that of Mr. Crabbe and Mr. Drummond Hay, whose advice would prove invaluable, he hoped to steer the craft safely through the coming year. (Applause.)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. CRABBE proposed the re-election of Mr. J. D. Hoare as Honorary Secretary. He said that during the past year he had learned the capabilities of Mr. Hoare as a Secretary, and he could confidently say that Mr. Hoare was rapidly making himself proficient for the Chairmanship of the Association at no very distant date. He took a keen interest in his work and he was always up to date; a better Secretary it would be impossible to find in the district. (Applause.)

Mr. P. D. G. CLARK seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The following were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:—

Rakwana Committee: Messrs. G. W. Greenshields, F. J. Poyntz Roberts, E. Winthrop.

Ratnapura Committee: Messrs. J. Hawke, Drummond Hay, P. D. G. Clark, J. Paterson, A. J. Ingram, W. Hendry, G. M. Crabbe, B. A. Thornhill, D. Robertson, and the Chairman and Secretary *ex-officio*.

Balangoda Committee: Messrs. A. D. Sly, R. Brough, and Lecky-Watson.

Plant Pests Board: Messrs. P. D. G. Clark, P. Bridge and Poyntz Roberts.

Hospital Visitors: Messrs. H. F. Pearson and J. Hawke.

Rakwana Hospital: Messrs. Geddes and Winthrop.

Kandy Committee: Messrs. P. D. G. Clark, G. M. Crabbe, A. D. Sly, H. Drummond Hay, Chairman and Secretary *ex-officio*.

Benevolent Fund: Chairman and Secretary.

District Road Committee: Messrs. Geddes and Lecky-Watson.

Provincial Road Committee: Mr. H. Drummond Hay.

THE TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The CHAIRMAN stated that Mr. E. B. Alexander had kindly come down to give them any information he could about the telephone service. He asked Mr. Crabbe, who had taken a keen interest in the matter, to open the discussion.

Mr. CRABBE said the number of telephone lines was insufficient. They first of all wanted to find out whether the firms interested in the matter would care to go into the scheme and would put up sufficient money to take the telephone from the Ratnapura district to the various estates, and, if so, on what condition. He understood that there were two methods possible. The first was what they might call the cheap one, inasmuch as the service was run with wooden posts, with a single wire, while the alternative scheme was worked with a return wire or a double wire. They had formed a Committee on the subject and they had obtained a certain amount of statistics in connection with the cost, but beyond that they had done very little. It was a matter which should be discussed, and he would ask the Chairman to move the meeting into Committee so that they could go into the question thoroughly and see how they stood.

The meeting then went into Committee.

Mr. ALEXANDER answered a number of questions on the subject put by members, and in the end he promised to write to the Superintendent of Telegraphs asking him to send an officer to the district to make a circuit and form an estimate as to the cost of the scheme.

On the motion of Mr. CRABBE, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Alexander.

Correspondence.

BALANGODA-RATNAPURA COACH SERVICE.

The following letter with reference to the Balangoda-Ratnapura coach service, was read:—

Hapugastenne, Ratnapura,
October 8th, 1912.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
Colombo.

Sir,

Adverting to my letter of the 19th of September, I beg to state that at a general meeting held of this Association on the 21st of September the question of the coach service between Balangoda, Rakwana, and Ratnapura was brought before the meeting.

The opinion of the meeting was that this was not a matter that affected Ratnapura as much as residents in the Rakwana district. It was therefore resolved that the matter should be left to the Rakwana sub-Committee of this Association, and the meeting decided to support any resolution that they might frame.

I have now to state that that I have received the following resolution from the Hon. Secretary of the Rakwana sub-Committee: "That the coach service be allowed to remain as at present, and that the Sabaragamuwa and Balangoda Associations be written to that effect."

You will understand from the foregoing that this resolution has the support of this Association.

I beg to remain, etc., Sir,
(Signed) J. D. HOARE,
Hon. Secretary.

RATNAPURA-KUKUL KORALE ROAD.

The SECRETARY read the following correspondence in connection with the Ratnapura-Kukul Korale road:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, October 19th, 1912.

The HON. SECRETARY,
Sabaragamuwa Planters' Association.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 28th September, 1912, forwarding a copy of a resolution passed by the Sabaragamuwa Planters' Association requesting that the Ratnapura-Kukul Korale road may be opened for general traffic between the Pelmadulla-Ratnapura cart road at Tiruwanaketiya and the Dela bridge, I am directed to inform you that the road is not yet ready for general traffic.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. N. GALBRAITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

KUKUL KORALE ROAD.

Ratnapura Kachechi,
December 5th, 1912.

The HON. SECRETARY,
Sabaragamuwa Planters' Association.

Sir,

Referring to your letter of February 5th, I have the honour to inform you that Government are at present unable to sanction the trade of the extension of the above road to the boundary of this province.

2. The extensive programme of new roads already authorised and in progress is taking the whole of the resources of the Public Works Department. No further extension can be contemplated until considerable progress has been made with the present programme.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) E. B. ALEXANDER,
Government Agent, Sabaragamuwa.

Mr. P. D. G. CLARK said that with regard to the non-extension of that road during 1913, they were clearly given to understand by Sir Henry McCallum that that was a Government undertaking and that it was going through on purely Government lines—as a trunk line. Acting on that undertaking some of them in the neighbourhood had undertaken large clearings in the neighbourhood of that line of road, and he thought it was to be very greatly regretted that that road was not going on. He had a resolution to bring before them to the effect that they ask Government to continue the extension of that road year by year. If they only did a little piece every year it would be some help. The extension of that road would only mean the linking up of what they had done in the past, but it would form a most important link between Sabaragamuwa and the Southern Province. He proposed the following resolution:—"That this Association views with

considerable regret the decision of Government, intimated by the Colonial Secretary, that there will be no extension of the Kukul Korale road during 1913, and the Association would urge on Government the necessity of a yearly extension, however small, being added, in keeping with the policy laid down by Sir Henry McCallum which has resulted in capital being invested in the district to be served by further extension of this road."

Mr. CRABBE seconded, his chief reason in supporting the resolution being, he said, progressive policy. They all knew perfectly well that as roads were made in a country development followed immediately. Unfortunately, in Ceylon it had often been the other way round—development first, roads afterwards. The necessity of the continuation of the road was without question.

Mr. DRUMMOND HAY supported the resolution. He said that for the benefit of those who did not understand where the road was he might mention that a road existed to Bentota up to the boundary of Sabaragamuwa for many years, and then the Nivitigala road was made. Now there was only a valley between the two roads. He believed he was right in saying that the distance was not more than ten miles, and the district was absolutely full of estates on both sides. More than that, the road was actually promised them by the Governor. They asked him to help them in getting three roads, but he put two aside and said "This one will be extended. You need not say anything more about it. You can leave it to us." Mr. Drummond Hay pointed out that it was a most desirable thing to have the district linked up and also to have a road from the sea.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

LIQUID FUEL.

The correspondence with regard to liquid fuel was read by the SECRETARY.

RUBBER CANKER.

The meeting decided unanimously to support the resolution of the Kalutara P. A. "That the Honorary Secretary do write the Parent Association asking them to request Government to proclaim canker in rubber as a pest under the Plant Pests Ordinance."

The Hon. Secretary was instructed to reply to the Secretary of the Ceylon P. A., with regard to an inquiry as to the extent of the thefts of cardamoms in Sabaragamuwa, that no cases were known of in the district.

TELEGRAMS TO THE GOVERNOR.

The CHAIRMAN stated that their late Chairman, Mr. Crabbe, had very thoughtfully sent a telegram on behalf of the Association to H. E. the Governor on the eve of his retirement. He thought a vote of thanks was due to Mr. Crabbe for his happy thought.

This was accorded unanimously.

The telegram was as follows:—"The Sabaragamuwa Planters wish Your Excellency and Lady McCallum *bon voyage* and a speedy return to good health. Your names will always be associated with this district in connection with all you have done for us to further our interests in railway extension and general progress, and we are truly grateful."

(Signed) GEORGE CRABBE,
Chairman, Sabaragamuwa P. A.

The following reply was received.

"I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to thank you very much for your wire and good wishes. He sincerely hopes the Ratnapura district will continue to flourish.—PRIVATE SECRETARY.

RAILWAY EXTENSION.

The HON. SECRETARY read the following letter from Government with regard to railway extension:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
January 14th, 1913.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 8th January, I am directed to inform you that the question of the extension of the railway to Opanaika is still under inquiry.

I am, Sir, Yours, &c.,
(Signed) A. N. GALBRAITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

Mr. A. D. SLY said it was very gratifying to know that the matter had not been shelved by Government. They could only hope that Government would look upon Balangoda as a very outlying district, and would give them the best means of Communication and the best means of transport they could. They lived in hopes that the railway would come to Opanaika.

REQUEST TO THE GENERAL MANAGER OF RAILWAYS.

Mr. W. S. DAVIDSON proposed the following resolution:—"That the General Manager, Ceylon Government Railway, be asked to add a "tricompo" carriage from Avisawella to Ratnapura on the No. 2 up; that is the train arriving at Ratnapura about 9-30 a.m." He said that at present first and second-class passengers who had to attend Court, or had to be in Ratnapura early on other business, had either to come to Ratnapura the previous night or to travel third-class by the afore-mentioned train. As the train was greatly used by villagers proceeding to Court the latter alternative was far from being comfortable.

Mr. HAWKE seconded, and the resolution was carried.

TELEGRAPH OFFICE AND POLICE STATION.

Mr. B. A. THORNHILL submitted the following resolutions to the meeting:—

(a) "That Government be asked to establish a police station at Ellagawa or Edugoda."

(b) "That Government be asked to establish a telegraph office at Ingiria, and that the Association request the Kalutara P. A. to support the resolution."

(c) "That the P. R. C. be asked to pay half the cost of a wire suspension bridge across the Kaluganga at Ellagawa which will probably cost Rs. 8,000, the estates interested paying the other half."

He said that the questions were essentially ones of interest to their own end of the district. Mr. Drummond Hay would be able to support him in the question of a bridge across the Kaluganga. There were a good many plumbago mines in the district, and an outlet road would be served by that bridge.

Mr. DRUMMOND HAY seconded. He said the river practically divided the province into two parts, and although the bridge might not be of much value to many members of that Association, he was sure they were all agreed that

where there was a chance of getting a necessary bridge they should support it. The part suggested for the construction of the bridge was the only easy part of the river, and the construction of a suspension bridge there might lead some day to a horse bridge being put across.

Resolution (c) was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Speaking in support of resolution (b) Mr. THORNHILL said there was no telegraph station on the whole of that side of the country between Ratnapura and Panadura. It was not a question that interested their Association very much, but he happened to be on one of the outlying estates in the district, and therefore he brought the matter before them. He suggested that the resolution if passed should be sent down to the Kalutara P. A. for support, as there was a large acreage in the Kalutara side of the country which would have an interest in such a telegraph office.

Mr. DRUMMOND HAY seconded. He said that Ellagawa was quite a big enough place to have a telegraph office. It was the centre of a planting district, and though most of the estates concerned were Kalutara estates, he thought as one of their members had brought up the matter he should be supported.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. THORNHILL then brought up his final resolution. He said that in the same way as there was no telegraph office between there and Panadura, there was also no police station for a distance of 22 miles. The district was the centre of a large plumbago mining industry, and there was a great deal of lawlessness, drunkenness and crime going on. He thought it a question for the Government Agent to take up.

Mr. DRUMMOND HAY said he would support the resolution if the word "Edugoda" was deleted and "some place near by" substituted. He said he did not want any police at Edugoda as he had already quite sufficient official people near him.

This amendment was agreed to and the resolution was then adopted.

ABSORPTION OF BALANGODA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

The following letter was read from the Balangoda Planters' Association:—

Sir,

At our annual general meeting held on June 11th, it was resolved to ask the Sabaragamuwa Planters' Association to absorb this Association in the same manner as Rakwana was. The following resolution was passed:—"That the Sabaragamuwa Planters' Association be asked to affiliate the Balangoda Planters' Association on the same terms as those on which the Rakwana Association was affiliated."

Mr. A. D. SLY said he would be very glad on behalf of the Balangoda Association if the Sabaragamuwa Association would accept the Balangoda members in their Association. In the past they had been allowed three members on the Sabaragamuwa Committee, and any matter they had brought before the Association had always received sympathetic treatment. He thought it was only right that they should now ask to be accepted by the Sabaragamuwa Association on the same terms as Rakwana was a few years ago.

The Balangoda P. A.'s request was unanimously acceded to, the Chairman offering the new members a hearty welcome.

This terminated the proceedings, and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.

A COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Committee of the Association preceded the general meeting, the following members attending:—Messrs. G. W. Crabbe (Chairman), H. M. Drummond Hay, P. S. Bridge, R. Brough, John Paterson, J. Hawke, A. J. Ingram, P. D. G. Clark, E. R. E. Geddes, F. Lecky-Watson, and A. D. Sly.

KALUTARA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

MR. GOLLEDGE ELECTED CHIRMAN.

INTERPRETATION OF RULES

RELATING TO NOTICE COOLIES.

The Annual Meeting of the Kalutara Planters' Association was held on Saturday at Tebuwana Club, there being a fair attendance of members.

Mr. H. Inglis presided, and there were also present:—Mr. C. C. Macadam, F. R. Dakeyne, P. H. O. Ash, G. H. Golledge, G. Thornton Pett, W. Pickering, J. W. Oldfield, R. Garnier, C. E. A. Dias, R. M. Ash, A. T. Boyle, G. C. W. Malett, H. A. Nance, J. R. Barkley, L. F. Day, R. P. Broome, G. H. Whall, J. Ingleby, W. S. Niebecker, R. Lester, W. H. P. Dias, E. G. Hodgson, H. Ditmas and F. H. Griffith, Hon. Secretary.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The first business was the presentation of the annual report, which was read by the Hon. Secretary and was as follows:—

THE REPORT.

MEETINGS.—Three General meetings and seven Committee meetings have been held during the year, the attendance averaging 34 and 8, respectively.

MEMBERSHIP.—There are 63 estates on the Register against 67 last year, representing some 48,000 acres approximately.

FINANCE.—The balance-sheet shows a sum of Rs. 1,475-77 standing to the credit of the Association, of which Rs. 600 is on loan to the Telephone Committee.

TEA AND RUBBER STATISTICS.—Your Committee regret that owing to the fact that 19 estates have failed to send in their returns they are unable to give the usual statistics of acreage and yields of tea and rubber. Steps are being taken to collect these figures and they will be published at an early date.

WEATHER.—The weather has been abnormally wet, the rainfall for the year being 167 inches.

RUBBER.—During the period under review the weather has been abnormally wet, but notwithstanding this, the harvest generally has been good and estimates have exceeded expectations. Compared with previous year, the number of new clearings has been small. Prices on the whole have kept fairly level. The majority of estates in the district are manufacturing crepe, and the most noticeable feature of this grade has been the all-round improvement in colour. The most noticeable feature being the better price obtained for lower grades, and the small margin now remaining between firsts and seconds. The interesting lecture recently given by Mr. Petch contained many valuable hints as to the treatment of those diseases, to which the rubber tree is liable, the record attendance proved that the adage "To be forearmed" had been in the minds of all those present. Your Committee would urge every precaution being taken to cope with all diseases of the rubber tree.

LABOUR.—Coolies have come over from the coast fairly well during the year, but it will be some time before the large acreage coming into bearing will be supplied. The health generally has improved, partly due to the better attention given to sanitation and prevention of diseases.

LABOUR FEDERATION.—The Proprietors' Labour Federation is well supported in the district, and, backed up by our own Rules, is doing good work by checking the moving about of coolies from one estate to another with the hope of getting higher advances. It is a pity the Federation is not better supported throughout the planting districts, only about 54 per cent. of the cultivated acreage having joined. If a larger acreage belonged to it, would be able to effect some much-needed reforms, and the reckless way in which advances are given out might be checked.

RUBBER THEFTS.—Thefts of rubber were very prevalent during the greater part of the year, but, owing, however to the energetic action of the Police, there was a marked decrease towards the end of the year. Your Committee wish to place on record their appreciation of the efficient and impartial manner in which the Police Magistrate in Kalutara, Mr. J. E. de Silva, deals with all cases which are brought before him.

ROADS.—The P. W. D. roads in the district are in fair condition, and your Committee is glad to be able to report that the widening of culverts and cutting back of blind corners referred to in the last annual report has been continued. The need of wider roads throughout the district is being more and more felt each year. It is with regret that your Committee have to report that the damage done to the bridges on the Matugama-Pimbura road and the Matugama-Horawela road last June, have not yet been required, and also that ferry at Kalawellawa has not yet been established. The long-promised bridge at Clyde is still in the clouds.

D. R. C. ROADS.—Your Committee regret having again to report on the very bad state of some of these roads, and while making allowances for the very wet weather which prevailed during the year, they think they might have been kept in better order. It is hoped that the new arrangements proposed for supervising the work on these roads will prove satisfactory. Your Committee wish again to emphasise the importance of converting the Agalawatte-B' Eliya road into a P. W. D. road in view of the large acreage opened up in this locality, and also its future connection with the road to Ratnapura and Karawitta.

RICE.—The price of rice has fluctuated considerably during the year, and still remains very high.

RAILWAYS.—Your Committee regret they are unable to report any improvements in the conditions prevailing in the goods-yard at Kalutara. The yard is congested owing to the large quantity of manure and rice required by estates in the district, and the delay causes considerable inconvenience. Your Committee have approached Government with a view of increasing the means of communications by a railway from Moratuwa through Horana, Warakagoda, and Agalawatte.

TELEPHONES.—District Telephones were first installed in 1909 with only eight subscribers. There are now 21 subscribers and others have indicated their desire to be connected. There has been some inconvenience to subscribers where lines were not substantially erected, but on the whole the system continues to work satisfactorily, and to be a great help in every way as testified by the following figures:—

Period.	Calls.	Telegrams Sent out.	Telegrams Received.	Total amount Spent on Telegrams.	Increase.	No. of Sub- scribers.
				Rs. cts.	Per Cent.	
1910						
Total	19,881	2,312	1,811	1,225 60	...	13
Ave.	1,656	192	151	102 13	...	...
1911						
Total	29,425	3,003	3,110	1,594 25	30	17
Ave.	2,452	250	259	132 85	...	...
1912						
Total	43,907	3,998	4,120	2,249 40	41	21
Ave.	3,659	333	343	187 45	...	...

It has been decided to convert the system from "Earth" to "Metallic," and it is hoped that by the end of the present year (1913) to be able to speak over the Government Trunk Lines.

HOSPITAL.—I have the pleasure to report that this Hospital has been kept in thorough good order during the past year, wards, latrines, bath-rooms and grounds always clean and tidy,

but occasionally the wards have been crowded. The District Medical Officer considers that another female ward is required. There have been no complaints from the patients, and I received none from Estate Managers during the year.

Figures for 1912 are:—

	Admission.	Deaths.	Births.
From Estates	755	140	7
Others	307	30	3
	1062	170	10

IMPROVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR.—Two wards—one male, one female—have been rendered mosquito-proof, and all the latrines and the kitchen have been made fly-proof. In one male ward, the old wooden beds have been replaced with iron cots, and the D. M. O. hopes to replace many others during 1913. The question of improved water supply for this Hospital remains in abeyance. The original scheme of the Public Works Department was found to be impracticable, another scheme was too costly, so nothing was done, and the vote has lapsed. Quarters for the District Medical Assistant have not yet been provided, though they are asked for annually. I consider that Mr. Scharenguivel, the District Medical Officer, and the Matron and Nurse deserve the thanks of the Association for the efficient condition in which the Hospital is kept, and the evident care and attention that is devoted to the patients.

VOLUNTEERS.—Total strength of the detachment at the end of 1912 was 31, of which 5 members were on leave. Of the remaining 26, only 3 members were extra-efficient and 10 efficient, and as many as 13 (or 50 per cent. of the strength of the detachment) were non-efficient. This means a big loss to the Corps, whose finances are at present in a serious condition.

The result of the year's work is not creditable, but those members who have done their drills and musketry have done well, the musketry being particularly good. It is to be hoped that next year there will be an improvement, and members will try and turn out for drills and camp. Only one officer and three men attended camp this year.

C. M. R.—Strength of the Corps is 12. All members except two were efficient, and there were six marksmen. It is hoped to have a much better Corps for 1913.

MOTOR TRANSPORT.—Your Committee wish to draw attention to the urgent need for a more efficient means of transport than the bullock-cart to cope with the increasing heavy traffic on the roads. The bullock cart has served us well, but it is slow and cumbersome and out of date, and there is always the danger of cattle being attacked by rinderpest or foot-and-mouth disease, both of which diseases appear to be on the increase. Your Committee have approached Government with a view of getting certain roads proclaimed from motor lorries, at the same time requesting Government to state what weight per axle is permissible on each road in the district as lorries are available, which will come out much lighter than the bullock cart of the present day.

OBITUARY.—It is with regret that your Committee have to record the death of Mr. A. Wardrop, for many years Secretary of the Planters' Association of Ceylon and Mr. R. J. Booth, of Glendon, the oldest member of your Association.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

In moving the adoption of the report, the CHAIRMAN said that he was very sorry they were unable to give the usual figures of acreage, and yields of tea and rubber. It had been done in every report hitherto, but this year nineteen estates had not sent in their estimates. They hoped to get the figures later and they would then be published. The past year had been a very good one for tea and rubber planters. The prices for both products had been very satisfactory and the prospects for the coming year were very bright. The only thing they had to be afraid of was disease attacking rubber trees, but with ordinary precautions he did not think this was a danger they might fear very much. It was, however, one they must bear in mind. At the last Annual Meeting he said that the labour question was improving, and that the

advance system was at the bottom of all their labour troubles. He regretted that up to the present little progress had been made. At the last Annual Meeting of the P.A. at Kandy, several resolutions were put forward and carried which it was thought would put the labour question on a sounder footing. A sub-Committee was formed to confer with the Colombo agents as to the best means of putting these resolutions into force. The meeting was held in Colombo, and it was decided to ask the Proprietors' Labour Federation to embody these new rules in their rules. The "Federation agreed to do so, but as only fifty-four per cent. of the cultivated acreage had joined the Federation, the Federation did not feel strong enough to try and enforce those rules. Up to the present nothing more had been done. In his opinion the advance system was at the bottom of their troubles, and he would like to see it done away with entirely. All expenses incurred in bringing coolies over from India should be charged to revenue. Any money given to the kangany should not be recoverable unless charged to check-roll. It sounded rather drastic perhaps compared with the way they had been going on, since the labour question was first started, but if this was done there would be more care taken in giving out money to these kangany and coolies when it entailed increasing the cost of production.

THE TRANSPORT QUESTION

was becoming very serious not only for that district, but for all over the Island. The rates for carting were increasing very much, and there was always a fear now of rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease increasing. They might find themselves any day unable to get their produce away from the estates, and unable to bring up rice for their labour force. This matter was to be brought up at the Planters' Association meeting next month, and he hoped the Parent Association would take up the matter very strongly and urge upon Government the necessity of making all the roads available for motor transport. It was a big question, but a beginning must be made. Mechanical transport had largely deposed horse traffic in England and elsewhere, and there was no doubt it would eventually depose the bullock cart in Ceylon. They ought to be grateful to Government for bringing up the Excise Scheme. Whether it would do all that was expected of it they could not yet say. The speaker referred to the large amount of illicit sale, and said that any scheme which was brought forward to lessen these facilities they should be grateful for. He regretted to have to record the death of Mr. R. J. Booth, who was one of the oldest planter in the district, for many years being at Glendon. He was a man of retiring disposition, but those who knew him could testify to his sterling worth and many qualities. He would be greatly missed out there. They also regretted the death of Mr. Wardrop, for many years Secretary of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, a man who endeared himself to all who had anything to do with him in business or in the affairs of the Association.

The report was then adopted.

THE NEW CHAIRMAN.

Mr. INGLIS now retiring, Mr. Thornton Pett was unanimously voted to take the chair temporarily, and at once proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman. They were greatly obliged to him for the way

he had given them his time. He believed there was not a single meeting held in Kandy he had not attended, and he had done his best in every way. He had occupied the chair several years before and they expected good things from him and they had not been disappointed.

In reply, Mr. INGLIS said that what he had done had only been for the love of the work. It was a good many years since he took up that work since 1900. He had been Secretary for 6 years, and Chairman for 4, and he thought it was time they had a change.

A voice: Or a rise in screw. (Laughter.)

Mr. THORNTON PETT then proposed that Mr. Golledge should be the Chairman for the coming year. He was a resident of the district and a man they all knew. He always took the greatest interest in everything he took up. If they elected him they would have the benefit of his energy and the fruits of his thoroughness.

Mr. DAKEYNE seconded and said they had experience of Mr. Golledge as Chairman once before, and he thought that they could not do better.

Mr. GOLLEDGE said he felt deeply the honour they were doing him in asking him to take the Chair again. It was, however, an important district and things were constantly cropping up which required a great deal of attention and perhaps he might not be able to give that attention to important things that cropped up. He thought perhaps that it would be in the interests of the Association if they elected someone else.

The meeting however insisted that Mr. Golledge should fill the office.

Mr. INGLIS proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Hon. Secretary. He had worked extremely hard for the Association. As he was going home this year he would not be able to continue the duties.

Mr. GOLLEDGE proposed that Mr. Oldfield be appointed. Mr. INGLIS seconded and it was carried.

The Committee were elected as follows:—Matugama, Messrs. F. H. Griffith, F. Ingleby and G. Thornton Pett; Kudaganga, Messrs. R. Garnier, N. Westland, L.P. Gapp and F. N. Bridge; Bentota, Messrs. P. H. O. Ash, and H. M. Stratford; Horana, Messrs. W. Pickering, C. E. A. Dias and D. Davidson; Tebuwana and Nehoda, Messrs. H. Inglis, W. T. Miller, J. R. Barkley, W. S. Niebecker, W. Dickinson, G. Templer and F. R. Dakeyne; Kandy representatives, Messrs. Inglis, Garnier and Barkley.

Benevolent Fund.—Mr. Ingles.

Auditor.—Mr. Dakeyne.

THE NEW CHAIRMAN AND RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Mr. GOLLEDGE said it was the wish of the retiring Committee that their Chairman should make a few remarks on the rules of the Association with a view to explaining any difficulties new members to the district might have in following rules 14 and 16. These two rules controlled the paying off and taking on of coolies on associated estates. He need hardly remind them that the Kalutara District held the much envied and unique position of having successfully put down local recruiting. These rules had proved the salvation of Kalutara in regard to labour. He might say that that was not always so. Before the time of any of them there that day he had been given to understand that the unsettled state of labour was appalling. It was moving around from estate to estate with the disastrous results known to them all. Their thanks were due to the

members of that time for introducing rule 14, which had generally been loyally upheld by the members of the Association, and in cases of necessity enforced by the Committees of the past. Rule 16 was introduced at a later date to counteract the devices of undesirables. He would appeal to them to read the rules carefully, and in all their doings with labour to act up to their full meaning. The procedure to adopt should be as follows:—A cooly or a kangany brings a district tundu. They accept it and write to the paying off estate to enquire if there were any objections to their taking it. If the answer was to the effect that there were objections they handed the tundu back to the cooly or kangany and said they could not take him under the rules of the Association, and the transaction ceased if the cooly had a grievance it was for him to fight it out with his dora, and had nothing whatever to do with them or any one else. That was the interpretation of rule 14. He had heard it said that this rule was sometimes abused. His answer was in the form of a question. How could anyone make such a statement except on one-sided evidence, which to start with he should not be in possession of, and secondly it was grossly unfair to make a statement against any Superintendent on this statement of a cooly with a tundu. Their Committees in the past had guarded those rules most jealously, and he had every confidence that the same would apply to the future, and he appealed to them all to uphold the position which Kalutara had attained. Kalutara had proved beyond any possible question the possibilities and advantages to be derived from Federation. The speaker emphasised that no remarks should be put on the tundu.

THE NURSING ASSOCIATION.

A letter was read from the Ceylon Nursing Association with reference to the appointment of a member on the General Committee and referring to the fact that subscriptions were now due. The Chairman was appointed to represent the district on the Committee.

TRANSPORT.

The following correspondence was read with reference to mechanical transport. The Committee do not intend to let the matter remain where it now stands, and will continue to devote their attention to its eventual adoption.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
14th January, 1913.

THE CHAIRMAN,
Kalutara Planters' Association.

Sir, In continuation of my acknowledgment of your letter of the 17th December, 1912, requesting that all the main roads in the Kalutara district may be made suitable for motor lorry traffic, with a view to accelerating the transport of goods and produce to and from estates, I am directed to inform you that the Director of Public Works reports that none of the roads in the district are at present suitable for motor lorry traffic.

2. It will clearly not be practicable for all the roads to be dealt with at the same time, and I accordingly request you to be so good as to name, in the order of their importance, the roads which, in the opinion of the Kalutara Planters' Association, should be made suitable for motor lorry traffic.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. N. GALBRAITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

Pimbura, Matugama,
21st January, 1913.

TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
Colombo.

Sir,

In acknowledging your letter No. 22753, dated January 14th 1913, I am instructed to inform you that my Committee fully realise that the roads in the Kalutara District are suitable for heavy traffic, but at the same time I would respectfully point out that the weight per axle is considerably less than in the case of a bullock cart.

2. I am further instructed to inquire of you what weight Government will allow per axle on all the roads in their present state.

It is possible to obtain a lorry which will come out much lighter than the bullock cart, and therefore, I beg to inquire whether Government will proclaim each road separately stating the weight per axle permissible in each case.

I am, Sir,
(Signed) F. H. GRIFFITH,
Hon. Secretary,
K. P. A.

POLICE STATION FOR KALAWELLAWA.

*The following letter was read from Mr. N. Westland on the above subject:—

Kiriwanaketiya,
Agalawatte, Matugama,
18th, January, 1913.

Dear Sir,

As I regret I shall be unable to attend the P.A. Meeting on the 25th instant, I shall be very obliged if you will bring the above subject up before the meeting.

The police station, which serves the estates round here and *Ingriya*, is at Tebuwana about 23 miles away more or less. There are only four constables at Tebuwana, as far as I am given to understand, which is absurd, seeing the very large number of villages and estates under the supervision of the station.

I don't think I am very far out when I say that a police station at Kalawellawa was strongly advocated by the Assistant Government Agent, Kalutara, in one of his recent annual reports. It is impossible, according to the present state of affairs, to check the illicit sale of toddy which are increasing every day, and are a great nuisance to the estates. All the rows, etc., in the villages are due to same—through not having a police station near at hand. I trust the Association will give this matter their attention and get a police station at Kalawellawa, which is *urgently needed*.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) NORMAN WESTLAND.

Mr. GARNIER thought that it would be a very good thing. Tebuwana was too far away, and Matugama did not come under its jurisdiction. He proposed that Government be asked to establish a Police Station at Kalawellawa.

Mr. GRIFFITH seconded.

The CHAIRMAN said it seemed to him that the residents had a very good case. He thought that if it was left to the Committee they would get what they wanted.

The resolution was carried.

POST OFFICE AT AGALAWATTA.

The CHAIRMAN said the Committee had worked hard at this matter for some time past. The Government had now intimated through the Postmaster-General that it had no intention of including a Post Office at Agalawatta in the Post Office estimates for 1913-14.

The retiring Committee did not propose to let the matter stay there, and they might be sure that the new Committee would do their best to get a post office at Agalawatta.

ROADS.

Complaints were made of several of the roads in the district and a culvert washed away at Kalawellawa in

September, 1911, was stated by Mr. Garnier not to have been replaced yet, the road thus being rendered useless.

Correspondence was also submitted with reference to the condition of the horses and carriages plying for hire in Kalutara, complaint being made by the Association. The A. G. A. stated that the matter was receiving attention.

MEMORIAL FOR MR. BOOTH.

On the motion of Mr. INGLIS it was decided that a memorial tablet should be placed in Neboda Church in memory of Mr. R. J. Booth similar to the tablets already there.

Mr. PETT seconded the motion, which was heartily supported.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

MATALE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

COCOA AND RUBBER LICENSES.

THE ASSOCIATION'S FUNDS AND CHARITIES.

RAILWAY BLOCKAGE AND PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

The Annual General Meeting of the Matala Planters' Association was held at the Borron Memorial Hall on Saturday at 2 p.m., preceded by a Committee Meeting. Mr. H. D. Garrick presided, and there were present:—Messrs. H. S. Cameron (Hon. Secretary), J. W. F. Brockman, Harry Storey, A. Thorp, Dan. Joseph, R. P. Gorton, Wm. Innes Short, D. A. Steele, J. A. M. Bond, John Taylor, A. J. M. Reeves, and Messrs. Arthur T. Bantock, N. V. Forrest, G. B. Vernon and B. R. Woodward (visitors.)

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read. Letters of regret at being unable to attend the meeting were read from the following:—Messrs. J. Westland, Jas. Anderson and Fred. VanRooyen. The latter also wrote that whenever his advice and opinion is required on any matter that he may be given a couple of days' notice of such requirements.

RUBBER ESTIMATES.

The HON. SECRETARY read the following letters from the Secretary of the Planters' Association of Ceylon:—

RUBBER CROP ESTIMATE, 1913.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
Matala Planters' Association.

Dear Sir,

The Chamber of Commerce, Colombo, have requested the assistance of the P. A. in making an estimate of the Island's Rubber Production in 1913, and I beg to enclose herein 100 forms to be circulated for the purpose of collecting the necessary statistics. I am directed by the Committee to solicit your kind offices in obtaining returns from estates in your district, which should be sent in to you, only the totals being forwarded to this office.

I shall be glad to let you have more forms if necessary, and also to refund your Association the cost of distributing them.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) JOHN STILL,
Secretary, P. A. of Ceylon.

P.S.—I shall be greatly obliged if you can let me have the above figures as early as possible before the 10th proximo.

The HON. SECRETARY stated that several estates had not sent in their estimates for 1913, and he hoped those members present who had not already done so would kindly give him the particulars before they left. He had written estimating the rubber crops for 1913 at nearly two million lbs. He added that the Government Agent had also written to ask their help in tracing rubber thefts.

A letter was read from the Ceylon P. A. attaching the following telegram from the General Manager of the Railways:—

Please advise Matale District Planters that the line between Wattegama and Matale will be closed for a month at least. They should arrange for transport to and from Wattegama or Kandy.

CARDAMOM THEFTS.

The HON. SECRETARY read the following letter on this subject from the Secretary, C. P. A., Kandy.

PROPOSED CARDAMOM THEFTS ORDINANCE.

Dear Sir,

I write to inquire whether you can give me any specific cases of theft of cardamoms which would seem to indicate that further or amended legislation is desirable.

I should be glad of an early reply, so that the matter may go on before the Thirty Committee on the 1st January.

Yours, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN STILL,
Secretary, P. A. of Ceylon.

The CHAIRMAN thought if the proposed Ordinance was passed it would help the planters a great deal, and would operate beneficially in conjunction with the Cocoa and Rubber Thefts Ordinance.

Mr. STOREY said that he never knew any cases in the district, nor did any one else present.

ALEXANDER WARDROP MEMORIAL.

The subject of the memorial to the late Mr. Alex. Wardrop was also before the meeting.

POST AND TELEGRAPH.

Mr. JOHN TAYLOR inquired as to what had been done as regards the telegraph office at Ukkuwella.

The CHAIRMAN replied that this matter was left in the hands of Mr. B. H. Jenkyns, who was not present at the meeting owing to ill-health, which no doubt had prevented his making much move in the matter.

Cocoa Licenses.

THE MONOPOLY TO MOOR TRADERS.

The HON. SECRETARY announced that it was proposed in Committee in consequence of a petition on the subject, that a deputation of the members of the Association be formed to wait on the Assistant Government Agent and discuss matters.

The CHAIRMAN said that a reduction in the licenses had been effected, but all the 9 licenses issued were apparently to Moormen, and in his opinion this would do no good to the district. Personally he thought the licenses should not be limited to Moormen, and that other communities who deal in this product should be given a chance, and a fair distribution of the licenses among the different classes of dealers would be useful and benefit the district. The trade should not wholly depend on Moormen, and limiting the licenses to these men would give them the

advantage of forming a ring with disastrous results. He, therefore, thought the proposal of a deputation to Mr. W. T. Southorn, the Assistant Government Agent, a good idea, and proposed that the new Chairman and Hon. Secretary do form the Deputation.

Mr. D. A. STEELE thought nine licenses quite sufficient for the district, and probably once issued they might not be subject to alteration or cancellation.

Mr. H. STOREY said the point at issue was that licenses had been limited to Moormen, who were owners of cocoa lands or otherwise interested in such lands, and the application of one petitioner—a low-country Sinhalese, having no interest in the district—had been refused for no reason, besides, in one instance, license was granted to the son of a Moorman whose license had been cancelled for offences connected with a rubber theft.

DANGER OF A RING.

Mr. DAN JOSEPH agreed with all that fell from the previous speakers. Already the residents had felt to their cost the result of the ring the butchers (all Moormen) had formed as regards the meat trade, and the fear that they would form a ring in the cocoa trade was eminently well founded. The Moormen should not be allowed a monopoly, and it would be to the detriment of the public.

Mr. STEELE wished to know whether the 9 licenses included rubber licenses also.

The CHAIRMAN informed him that 5 rubber licenses had been issued besides the 9 cocoa licenses, and all the licenses were issued to Moormen.

Mr. STOREY said that at present the Moormen ran Matale and ruled prices as they liked. This fact should be pointed out to Government, and the state of affairs rectified.

Mr. BROCKMAN supported the proposal of the Deputation, provided the restriction of the licenses to 9 be not interfered with, as the reduction was done for the express purpose of checking thefts.

Mr. DAN JOSEPH: The Chief headman of the district might be included in the Deputation.

Mr. THORP: He is not a member of the Association. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the A. G. A. be written to have the chief headman present at the deliberations. The proposal of the Deputation was unanimously carried.

Motor Van and Passenger Traffic.

Mr. STOREY said that the mails were now being carried by a motor van, which had accommodation for about 10 persons, but permission to travel by this had been refused to the people. He suggested that the General Manager of the Railway be requested to permit people to travel by this van from Matale to Kandy and back. It was now being run for mails only, which were accommodated in the box at the rear of the car, while the car itself was always empty.

Mr. DAN JOSEPH had great pleasure in supporting the suggestion. He had wired yesterday on behalf of the residents asking permission to use the vans, but had not received a reply yet from the General Manager. The inconvenience caused by the suspension of train service was considerable, and the General Manager should allow the use of the car to the people.

Mr. BROCKMAN wished to know how many could travel, and how they regulate as to who should have preference.

Mr. CAMERON : First come first served !

Mr. TAYLOR : The same rule that obtains in the case of mail coaches could apply in this instance.

Mr. BROCKMAN said the Government might have more than one such van, and they ought to provide Matale with some service at any rate.

The CHAIRMAN agreed and said the inconvenience was exceedingly great, and something should be done to push the matter. Some such service as suggested would be an excellent idea.

The meeting unanimously agreed that Government should make some arrangements, and that they should have more than one van for this purpose.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that it was absurd to run the van without passengers.

Mr. BROCKMAN testified to having seen a car running with a solitary mail bag and the car empty, but for the driver and another. He feared the Government would do nothing unless they stirred in the matter.

THE RESOLUTION.

Mr. H. STOREY proposed "That the General Manager be requested to permit the Matale-Kandy mail van to convey passengers between Matale and Kandy and back."

Mr. DAN JOSEPH seconded. — Carried unanimously.

Mr. H. STOREY proposed "That the attention of the Provincial Engineer be called to the now very heavy cart traffic on Kandy-Matale road. In the opinion of this Association the road, unless continually attended to, will soon be cut up, and this Association wishes to impress upon the Provincial Engineer that owing to delay in the completion of the Wattegama-Ukuwella road, the whole supply of rice and goods for Matale depends on the condition of the Kandy road."

The CHAIRMAN said the resolution spoke for itself. The Ukuwella-Wattegama road, which was expected to be opened by April next, would take at least 18 months more to be brought to any condition likely to enable its opening for traffic.

Mr. JOHN TAYLOR thought the difficulty was in getting contractors and coolies for the work.

Mr. THORP seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

MOTOR TRANSPORT.

Mr. DAN JOSEPH suggested that Government be approached with a view to obtaining their help in the transport of goods between Matale and Kandy by motor lorries. Government had taken up relief work in other parts of the Island with commendable solicitude, and they should grant Matale some help in the transport difficulty, consequent on the suspension of railway service between Matale and Wattegama for a considerable period.

Mr. SHORT believed there were no coolies working on the rail road.

Mr. BROCKMAN wished to know if anything was being done at all.

The CHAIRMAN : A large quantity of sleepers have arrived and work has been started.

Mr. THORP wished to know whether a train was available at this end.

The CHAIRMAN : There is a train held up near Ukuwella and the slip is being cleared to release it.

Mr. CAMERON : There should always be a spare engine kept at Matale.

Mr. THORP wished to know why an aerial tramway should not be erected about the place of obstruction, and thus transport by railway be restored the trains working from Matale to the slip, while at other end similar arrangements could be made. An aerial tramway would not take a long time and could be erected in a couple of days and he thought this expedient was resorted to in other places of obstructions by the railway authorities.

Mr. BROCKMAN : Probably the distance is too great, and you have to get over so many slips.

The CHAIRMAN thought it could be a mile or a mile and a half the most.

Mr. THORP : If that is so, why not look out for an aerial tramway.

Mr. STOREY believed the Government would not be backward in doing their best as regards goods, and if there was anyway of doing it they would. Had anybody any idea of where goods consigned to Matale were at present?

Mr. GORTON : I expected certain things by railway, and have not heard anything at all about them.

It transpired that goods consigned to Matale were sent some to Wattegama or Katugastota, while the others were stopped at Kandy, causing great inconvenience.

Mr. STOREY did not think this state of affairs a surprise, as the railway staff were quite capable of such a muddle.

The CHAIRMAN : The C. G. R. have since notified that upward goods will be received at Katugastota, while goods for Matale will be delivered at Kandy.

Association's Funds and Charities.

Mr. THORP proposed that in future the funds collected from subscriptions to the Matale Planters' Association shall be devoted only to the running of the Association—i.e. the Parent Association and the M. P. A., and matters connected with the Secretaries be helped by donations out of the M. P. A. Funds; also that Rule VIII. be altered to this effect. He said the resolution spoke for itself and he had but little to add. He wished to point out that the subscription to the Association was money belonging to estates and proprietors, and such payments had to be passed through the accounts in the usual course. Such money should be used exclusively for the M. P. A. works only, and it was not right to give donations to various charities. Such expenditure would necessitate the raising of the subscription of the Association, and it was only last year such a course was adopted to meet the increase of the Parent Association subscription by Rs. 5. He thought the money of the Association should be kept together and thus form a fund available for purposes of the Association's demands.

Mr. SHORT seconded.

Mr. JOHN TAYLOR thought the local subscription was not raised above the call of the Parent Association, that every District Association did so, and that it was only a matter of sentiment.

Here it was pointed out that the point at issue was not one raising the subscription, but as regards donations to charities.

The CHAIRMAN was not in favour of ceasing subscriptions to various charities. He maintained that the charities the Association subscribed to were more or less charities that at times helped the planters. He did not see any valid reason for stopping donations. The Association had done so for many years, and this opposition had not cropped up before. Other District Associations granted donations as a rule, and custom had practically sanctioned it. The S. P. C. A., for instance, did benefit the Planting Community and their transport work, and he strongly objected to ceasing donations though he had no argument, so to say, against Mr. Thorp's proposal.

Mr. STONEY did not agree with the Chairman as far as charities were concerned. The Planters' Benevolent Fund contributed donations to outside charities, and he thought, so far as charities were concerned, it should be by personal donations and not out of the Association's Fund. He fully agreed with Mr. Thorp that the subscription of the Association should be confined to the running of the Association and not to any charitable institutions at all. If they deserved help it should be by personal donations and not out of the Association's Fund.

RESOLUTION CARRIED.

On being put to the meeting the resolution was carried, only the Chairman dissenting.

Mr. THORP's proposal to alter Rule No. VIII. was also carried, and the Rule was accordingly altered to read:—

"That the yearly subscription be fixed at Rs. 17-50, of which Rs. 12-50 will be paid for membership to the Parent Association, and the balance Rs. 5-00 to this Association's account to meet all expenses of rent, running, advertising, postages, stationery and the running of the Association, this money thus realised being banked in the name of the Honorary Secretary, who will be also Treasurer.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The following annual report for 1912 was read by the HON. SECRETARY.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1912.

The number of subscribers to the Association during 1912 was 86, being 8 less than last year, due to some estates in the Kurunegala district having joined that Association, and to the loss of five private voters who have left the district. The finances of the Association are satisfactory, there being a balance in hand of Rs. 339-26. Owing to a special inspector having been sent to Matala by the S. P. C. A., a donation of Rs. 25 was given to that Society. No other deserving institutions were assisted during the year in review, as such donations were criticised when only rendered possible by increasing the subscription of the Association. During the year four general meetings were held, preceded by the usual committee meetings, all of which were well attended. The year 1912 has been a prosperous one for all products except tea which has suffered, especially in the Matala valley from another severe drought, though doubtless the short crops are largely due to the excellent growth of the rubber which has been so generally interplanted. Owing to the increasing number of estates which have their own dispensers, the duties of the D. M. O.'s and their assistants as far as estates are concerned have been lessened, and they can now cope with their work more efficiently. In consequence the health of our labour has, despite the drought, been decidedly more satisfactory than formerly.

THEFTS.—As in other districts thefts of praedial products have been numerous. The authorities seem to be fully alive to the serious state of affairs. They have shown energy in en-

deavouring to find the culprits, and on conviction deterrent sentences have been passed. Further amendments of the Ordinances dealing with the theft of cocoa, cardamoms and rubber are now under discussion, and it is hoped that the suggestions of the Planters' Associations and of the Police Department will meet with the approval of Government.

LABOUR supply has been fairly satisfactory, but the coolie question is still with us in its usual chaotic state.

ROADS.—It is pleasant to record that there is evidence that some attention has been paid to, our repeated complaints as to neglect of the North Road. The road is now in better order than it has been for some years. Wattagama-Ukuwella road is still unopened, progress is extremely slow, the total length is only seven miles, and the work has been in hand for over two years.

Complaints to the Gahawela road have been frequent, but work on this road is now in progress.

TELEPHONES.—The introduction of telephones and erection of an exchange for the district was proposed, but the Government system and terms being considered unsatisfactory it was resolved to postpone the matter.

LICENSED TAVERNS.—The new Ordinance is now in force, and has met with a great deal of criticism. It is, however, generally admitted that it is a distinct gain that Government has realised the necessity for legislation to suppress the illicit trade in intoxicating liquors. It is still too soon to say whether the control now introduced will prove effective.

TEA.—Another year of severe drought has again been experienced. The rainfall to end of June was 17-36 inches against 22-98 inches last year, and consequently many estates have not even got last year's crops.

Prices, however, have been fairly satisfactory; high cultivation continues to receive due attention, and the tea, generally speaking, never looked in better heat than it does at present.

RUBBER.—The meagre rainfall during the first half of the year considerably retarded the flow of latex, but the advent of the N. E. rains in October, made a marvellous difference and soon made up for the shortage, and, on the whole, estimates should be mostly realised. Prices, though not so good as last year, have been fairly satisfactory, leaving a good margin of profit. There has been no large increase of acreage planted in this product during the past year.

CACAO.—The year under review was, on the whole, a good one. The autumn crop of 1911 was mostly harvested early this year, owing to heavy and continuous rainfall during the latter part of 1911. The adverse weather besides delaying the ripening of the crop also caused a bad attack of pod canker which increased the percentage of black cacao. The rainfall for 1912, although generally rather short, was well distributed, and cacao did not suffer from any abnormal drought such as prevailed last year. The spring crop was poor, but the autumn crop on most estates was a very good one. Heavy rains during November and December, again brought on pod canker, but owing to crop ripening up rather early, a large proportion was gathered before disease made its appearance. The market throughout the year was fairly steady, and prices showed a slight advantage.

CARDAMOMS.—The crop in this district has been short even less than the previous year, owing to the unsuitable weather conditions and the age of most of the cardamom fields. Probably owing to this shortage which seems to have been general everywhere, prices have been very good, especially during the latter part of the year. There has been no extent of new land opened up and the crop therefore from this district is not likely to increase in the future, unless the present good prices induce those with suitable land to open it up. The general opinion among growers seem to be that the present prices with only slight fluctuations are likely to continue.

THE HOSPITAL.—The hospital visitor reports: I visited the hospital three times during the year on the 9th April, the 12th August, and 2nd December, and invariably found everything in excellent order, and every one attending to their respective duties. It could never be said that there was any overcrowding, and I had no complaints of any sort. The food was always of good quality and plenty of it. The wards latrines, and bath-rooms were always clean, and the hospital grounds fairly tidy. Two large wards have been made mosquito-proof and kitchen fly-proof, and otherwise considerably improved. The operating theatre has also been made proof against all microbes, and in the pink of cleanliness.

Mr. STOREY did not quite agree with the statement that "tea never looked in better heart than at present." He thought quite otherwise, and there were others who agreed with him.

The report and accounts were passed.

The HON. SECRETARY thanked Mr. H. Storey for kindly auditing the accounts.

Election of Office-Bearers.

THE NEW CHAIRMAN.

Mr. H. D. GARRICK announced that after one year's work the Chairman and Secretary were called upon to retire and they did so now. He did not intend to give much of a resumé of the Association's work, as the annual report quite covered that. The year had not been a very strenuous one as regards the work of the M. P. A., but what there was to be done was done satisfactorily, and the Association was kept in the eye of the public, which, he thought, was a good idea. Most of the work done as regards roads had been quite undone by the floods, and he hoped the Government had realised their position and would do their best. They were having their hands full at present. The financial position of the Association was excellent. They started with a credit balance of Rs. 221.48, and now carried forward for current year the respectable amount of Rs. 339.26 as balance to credit, and this amount was not to be distributed among charities as before. He considered the Association commenced its year financially very well. He thanked the members and the Committee for their kind co-operation and assistance during the year. He wished also to thank the several Secretaries who filled the post at different times of the year, and Mr. Cameron for stepping into the breach at the end of the season. He need not mention that the amount of work at the close of the season was exceptionally great, and Mr. Cameron had done his work most excellently with the short time at his disposal. He begged to resign the Chairmanship.

Mr. STOREY suggested that it would be a good thing if he could name a successor.

Mr. GARRICK was sorry he had not consulted any member, but had great pleasure in proposing Mr. Thorp.

Mr. CAMERON seconded.

Mr. THORP wished to be excused, and proposed the re-election of Mr. Garrick.

Mr. GARRICK said he could not accept the honour as he would be going home. He wished fresh blood to be introduced at the head of affairs, and thought Mr. Thorp the right person.

Mr. Thorp was induced to accept the post. Mr. Storey also having declined the honour, averring that he had done his share in that he had been Secretary for 2 years and Chairman for 3 years.

Mr. THORP, on taking the Chair, thanked the members for the honour they had done him. It was an absolute surprise to him, and if they wished him to be their Chairman he would accede to their request and do his best. He said a meed of praise and thanks were due to the retiring Chairman for the able manner he had carried out the arduous duties.

SECRETARY RE-ELECTED.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was the election of a Secretary, and he could not do better than propose the re-election of Mr. H. B. Cameron.

Mr. DAN JOSEPH seconded.

Mr. CAMERON wished to be excused as he had now served nearly two years, and said Mr. Thorp should choose some one residing close to him.

Messrs. Gorton, N. V. Forrest, and J. L. Hayden's names were suggested, but there was a great call for Mr. Cameron, who was obliged to accept the post.

THE COMMITTEE.

The election of the Committee resulted as follows:—

Matale North: Messrs. J. C. Tribe, R. P. Gorton, W. L. R. Bartrum, and R. Wilson. Matale East: Messrs. W. J. Westland, E. M. Le Feuvre, G. V. Neave, and C. A. Evans. Matale South: Messrs. J. Anderson, H. D. Garrick, H. Storey, John Taylor, and Hodgson Bell. Matale West: Messrs. J. B. Tennant, J. L. Hayden, D. A. Steele, and Colonel E. Gordon Reeves. Elkaduwa: Messrs. J. S. M. Arnold and D. A. Miles. Matale Town: Messrs. Dan. Joseph and J. A. M. Bond. Kandy Committee: Messrs. Jas. Anderson, Hodgson Bell, D. A. Steele, H. D. Garrick, the Chairman and Hon. Secretary. Hospital visitors: Messrs. Hodgson Bell and Jas. Anderson. District Road Committee: Messrs. Jas. Anderson and Harry Storey. Representative of M. P. A. on Planters' Benevolent Fund: Mr. H. D. Garrick.

PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

Mr. GARRICK made a very strong appeal to those present to contribute to this fund and extolled its usefulness, stating that many who had not been members had also received help from this fund, and that one and all should join.

Mr. STOREY endorsed Mr. Garrick's statement and added that not less than Rs. 70,000 had been paid during last year towards pensions, and this fact would testify to the benefit derived by planters from this fund, which he said was deserving of large support.

Many of those present responded readily to the appeal.

A vote of thanks to the Chair brought the proceedings to a close.

RANGALLA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

QUESTION OF CARDAMOM THEFTS.

The Annual General Meeting of the above Association was held at Ferndale Drill Shed on Wednesday, 29th of January, 1913, at 1.30 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. A. H. Kerr, W. J. C. Polson, W. Sinclair, R. H. Ellis, Lindsay White, C. B. Clay, J. Hall Brown, and Geo. Johnstone.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Read letters from Government Agent *re* arrack taverns and from the Secretary of the P.A. *re* canker in rubber. It was resolved to support the resolution passed by the Kalutara P.A.

Read letter from the Government Agent *re* cocoa cultivation, from the General Manager, C.G.R., *re* liquid fuel drums, and from the Government Agent *re* toddy taverns in the district.

CARDAMOMS.

Mr. ELLIS moved the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. LINDSAY WHITE:—"That this Association represent to the Government Agent of the province the prevailing lawlessness of the district, especially as regards cardamom thieving."

MR. ELLIS' SPEECH.

Mr. ELLIS said: Having only shortly returned to the Island I did not know when I gave notice of the resolution before you that so much had been done in the way of representation of our case to Government, and that efforts were being made through the Thirty Committee to get cardamoms included in the P. P. Ordinance. Such, however, being the case I do not think I need waste your time going into all the details. We all know and the Government must now know what a crying scandal cardamom thieving has now become, and I think we may well ask the Government Agent to take steps to protect us till our product shall be included with Cocoa under the Ordinance. We have, I believe, represented, through the Thirty Committee, 34 specific cases of theft in this district, but I venture to say that we never detect one case in fifty of those which occur. Thieving here and there passes unnoticed as you know, 50 to 100 lbs. of green worth nearly 50 cents a pound as picked may be taken from the corner of a field, and no one any the wiser unless the racimes are damaged or destroyed by the thieves. I should put down the value of the cardamoms stolen from Leangapela Estate in 1912 as Rs. 1,200, and I actually had, at the end of the year, to pick unripe fruit to my great loss in order to save anything from heavily bearing stools in odd corners of the estate. This alone shews the state of affairs have got to, and the actual value of cardamoms stolen in the whole district last year must be a very large sum indeed. No wonder none of us obtained our estimates. Besides our right to protection against the abominable losses to which we are now subject, we may well charge Government if they do nothing to check the growth of this stealing, with, deliberately by their own supineness, breeding a tribe of professional thieves in the country. The children in the villages around us must not be brought up to believe that a midnight raid on other people's property is the correct way to provide any luxuries or food for which it is inconvenient to work. This can only lead to increase of crime in the future. Although we suffer most from thefts from the field, thieves break into our stores as well. I know of a case in this district when 500 lbs. of cured cardamoms were lifted one night. I lost about 80 from Leangapela a year or two ago, and since I sent notice of this resolution we have heard of the breaking into another estate store and the removal, it is said, of 300 pounds of cured cardamoms. All these things considered I ask you to support this resolution, that we strongly represent to the Government Agent the state of things here existing and beg him to take steps to help us. Were he only to impress on his higher headmen that he would not feel satisfied with their supervision of their korales and districts while such systematic robberies were of nightly occurrence, and that he looked to them to find the thieves and receivers and put a stop to it, it might wake them up and improve things for a short time, at the end of which, I hope, we shall find our product protected along with cocoa as it should be.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

TELEPHONES.

Mr. KERR gave notice that he wished the Ferndale exchange removed from his rice store, where it now is. A Special Committee was appointed to make arrangements and to look after the working of the telephones in the district for the ensuing year.

The CHAIRMAN said that he very much regretted on behalf of the Association any loss and inconvenience Mr. Kerr has been put to.

The Annual Report was then read as follows:—

MEETINGS.—There have been two Committee meetings and two General meetings at which the attendance has been poor.

MEMBERSHIP.—There are 21 estates and one private vote in the register.

FINANCE.—The accounts for 1912 were laid on the table. The balance-sheet shows a credit balance of Rs. 146-74.

BENEVOLENT FUND.—There are four estates and four private subscribers. It is hoped that now the fund has been put on a more satisfactory basis, more members may join both themselves and also the estates they represent.

WEATHER AND CROPS.—The year has been an exceptionally dry one. The rainfall for both monsoons being short. The tea crop in most estates has exceeded that of last year, but in 1911 prices have barely been realised. The cardamom crop has been very short, and most estates only obtained 50 per cent. of their estimate. Prices, however, have been excellent, and should keep up. The total acreage now under this product is approximately 7,426 acres, as against 8,621 acres in 1905, a decrease of almost 14 per cent. in ten years. The total exports were 436,475 lbs. against 555,013 lbs. in 1911. After the United Kingdom, Germany is our next best buyers followed by India and the U. S. A.

RUBBER.—The rubber crop for the district is estimated at 11,400 lbs. from 408 acres.

PLANTS PESTS.—Shot-hole borer has made its appearance on some estates in the district. The Parent Association has authorised the Chairman of the various Plant Pest Boards, to take effective steps to prevent the dissemination of this disease.

LABOUR.—No increase can be reported, rather a decrease. Advances still continue to soar upwards, in spite of the P. L. Federation, to which only 7 estates in the Association belong representing 63 per cent. of the cultivated acreage.

ROADS.—Main roads generally have been kept in good order with the exception of Dumbara bridge road, which is generally in holes, and a culvert or two up for repairs.

GRANT-IN-AID ROADS.—These have been kept in fair order.

DISTRICT ROADS.—Some of these have been kept in good order, some have not. The annual Government grant has been received and allotted. The record heavy rains at the beginning of 1913 have caused a great deal of damage to the roads in the district. The big bridge over the Galmaloya in the Teldeniya-Urugalla road which had only just been rebuilt by the P. W. D. has been swept away. A large slip near the 22nd-mile has stopped the Urugalla-Nugatenne road, and Medawahanewara district is completely cut off by cart-road from Kandy. Other roads as well report numerous slips and bridges gone.

TRANSPORT.—Your Committee have again to regret that they can report no progress with regard to motor traction. During the year the Colonial Secretary has twice been asked as to progress and the following replies received:—

MAY 25th, 1912.—"I am to inform you that the trials with the experimental lorry have not yet taken place."

AUGUST 10th, 1912.—"I am to state that the experimental lorry has not yet been received from England."—"In May, 1909, His Excellency promised a deputation from this Association which met him in Kandy that as they were the first to approach him in the matter, they would be the first to be served. On 17th January, 1910, His Excellency visited the district and discussed the matter, and he saw no reason why our road should not be used for motor traction and promised that motors should be got out to be experimented with and the order was to be given for the construction of a suitable motor lorry. These lorries we are informed have been ordered, but no one knows where they are. If mechanical traction is to be hung up your

Committee would again draw attention to the need for a light railway from Wattagama to Teldeniya which was asked for ten years ago.

HOSPITALS.—The report of the unofficial visitor is attached. Another name should be submitted as Mr. Miles has left the district.

CRIME.—Cardamom thieving still goes on unchecked and the villager finds it pays better to steal cardamoms than to work in a estate or in his village. Thieves are getting bolder and thieving more rife. The Headmen are useless and a conviction in a Police Court most difficult to obtain. Your Committee have collected evidence of theft in this district and have brought the matter up before the Parent Association with a view to getting an Ordinance passed in the lines of the Rubber and Cocoa Thefts Ordinances, and at the last Committee meeting in Kandy the following resolution was passed. "That the Secretary do write to the Hon. Colonial Secretary stating that this Committee is satisfied that thefts of cardamoms are very prevalent and asking respectfully that an Ordinance may be drafted on the lines of the Ordinances dealing with the thefts of cocoa and of rubber." It is to be hoped that this Ordinance may be drafted at once and be passed—once put a check on the receivers who are in every village and caddy and then we shall have made a start in checking what is a scandal.

EXCISE.—The new scheme this year came into effect. It remains to be seen whether for good or evil. It is a matter which will concern all estates.

TELEPHONES.—The two exchanges in the district are now working more satisfactorily, but still are far from perfect. There has been a good deal of trouble with the lines owing to faulty running by the contractor. Your telephone sub-Committee now hoped that things are in better working order. The connection with the Dispensary and Post Office is most useful as telegrams can now be sent and received the same day, which is a great convenience to outlying estates. It is to be hoped that the iniquitous charge of 15 cents now made may soon be dropped.

OBITUARY.—Your Committee regret to record the death of Mr. Alexander Wardrop, the Secretary of the Parent Association, during the year.

THE CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report, said that he was glad to be able to tell them that district telephones so long discussed were at last an accomplished fact. He was also pleased to see the progress made towards getting an Ordinance passed *re* cardamom thefts, and he hoped before the year was out that the matter would go through and become law. He remarked that the next useful work before the Association this year was to press all they knew for motor traction. In concluding he wished to thank Mr. Hall Brown for coming forward and taking on the duties of Secretary when Mr. Miles left the district.

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY REPORTS FOR 1912.

D. M. O. IN CHARGE.—Dr. E. Jan (and apothecary.)

WARDS.—Clean and tidy.

BUILDINGS.—All excepting the temporary ward are in fair order. The D. M. O. moved into the old Resthouse last October, I cannot be too emphatic about the so-called "temporary" ward; it is a very considerable number of years since this shed was put up, and it is in a disgraceful condition. In my Report for 1911, I drew attention to the dry rot in the rafters; these have not been touched. When I visited the ward recently I found the floor strewn with these borings, the ward is used for surgical cases, so there are at least half a dozen patients always in it. The cadjan roof leaks everywhere.

WATER.—The new water-work mains are broken, and the hospital now gets its supply from wells as before.

FEMALE WARD.—This ward is too small for this district; there are only eight beds in it.

GROUNDS.—Clean and tidy.

DRAINS.—Clean and tidy.

RANGALA DISPENSARY.

MEDICINES.—The supply has been kept up, but it is impossible to keep them in good order in such an exceedingly damp building.

BUILDINGS.—In very bad order.

TELEPHONES.—The District Telephone System has been extended to the Dispensary and D. M. O.'s Bungalow, and is proving itself most useful.

(Signed) ALFRED KERR,
Unofficial Visitor.

The report was then unanimously adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. Clay then vacated the chair, and Mr. HALL BROWN proposed that Mr. Sinclair be elected Chairman *pro tem*, which was seconded by Mr. KERR and carried unanimously.

Mr. SINCLAIR then moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Clay and Mr. Hall Brown for the work they had done during the year. He pointed out that the duties of Chairman were not easy, and Mr. Clay had occupied the chair for the past two years, during which time a great deal of good work had been done.

Mr. HALL BROWN then proposed Mr. Polson be elected Chairman for the ensuing year, which was seconded by Mr. CLAY, but Mr. Polson thanked them for the honour and refused.

Mr. KERR then proposed Mr. Hall Brown be elected Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. ELLIS and carried unanimously.

Mr. HALL BROWN asked Mr. Russell if he would consent to act as Secretary.

Mr. RUSSELL agreed, and on being put to the meeting it was carried unanimously.

The following Committees were then elected:—

LOCAL COMMITTEE.—Messrs. Polson, Sinclair, Kerr, Clay, and Ellis.

KANDY COMMITTEE.—Messrs. Sinclair and Clay.

Mr. Sinclair was elected unofficial visitor to Teldeniya Hospital and Ferndale Dispensary to be approved by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government.

Mr. Clay was elected member of the P. B. F.

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE.—The Chairman, Messrs. Sinclair, Clay, Kerr, and the Secretary.

The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair.

MUNDAKAYAM PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The following are from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Mundakayam Planters' Association held at the Chennappara Bungalow on Saturday, February 1st, 1913, Mr. J. R. Vincent presiding:—

THE HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The following are extracts from the Hon. Secretary's report:—"First of all the following figures will, no doubt, interest you. Under rubber alone the district comprises (exclusive of 1913 clearing) 11,893 acres rubber, 472 acres tea, and 145 acres of tea and rubber interplanted, a total of 12,510 acres, which is an increase of over 1,500 acres on last year's figures. The native opening in the district have also considerably increased, and I have information before me showing that at the close of 1912 these holdings amounted to some 1,700 acres. This brings the total area in the district under cultivation in tea and rubber alone to a little over 14,000 acres. I cannot compare crop figures

with previous years as this information is not on the records of the Association, but the output in 1912 amounted in round figures to 360,000 lbs. rubber and 730 lbs. tea. These figures will show you what an important factor we have become in the rubber world, and I hope that some successor of mine will be able to say the same with regard to tea. A good deal of spade work has been done by your Committee and officers during the year. We have seen the Motor Transport Scheme blossom into an accomplished fact and, I believe, working admirably. The Medical Fund has taken up a good deal of time but with excellent results, and another important work has been accomplished in the revision of the rules. The new book lies before you. In it you will find the new rule with regard to private members, and the Association is to be congratulated on enrolling its first private member in the person of Mr. J. A. Richardson. Another important scheme which is a memorable year has seen completed, or practically so, is the Scientific Officer Scheme. A year ago the cess seemed rather a heavy one, but with the increased acreages we have been able to keep it down to an initial 11 annas per acre and 10 annas per acre subsequently. Only 90 per cent. of the acreage is participating, otherwise another anna might have been knocked off the cess. I put it to those outstanding that they would do well to come in."

Mr. H. B. KIRK moved the adoption of the Honorary Secretary's report, which was seconded by Mr. A. HAMMOND and carried unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The CHAIRMAN said: "I should like to make a few remarks on the state of the rubber and tea industry in Mundakayam, which, I think, you will all admit, is in a very flourishing condition, and so long as our horizon is not clouded by some as yet unforeseen trouble I am sure it will go on flourishing. We have seen a great change in planting methods and opinions in the last five years, we have changed the face of the country a good deal in that time, and, last, but not least, I believe, we have succeeded in putting back into our shareholders' pockets a little of the money they have so adventurously entrusted to us. From the best advisers at home, we now know that for a decade at least, we need not fear that old bogey of agriculture, over-production, and that in consequence, except for an incidental rigging of the market, we need not expect large fluctuations in prices such as have been seen during the last four years. The real bogey we have to face, gentlemen, is of a darker hue, and represents our old friend and enemy, the cooly, and the note of warning which I wish to give in this connection is to beware of cooly rates going higher and higher, as they undoubtedly have been doing during the last decade. It will be a reflection on us as holders of our shareholders' purse strings if our cost of production, more and more every year, approaches the market value of our produce, and it behoves us as an Association to see if we cannot, not only keep rates from going higher, but also reduce them as much as we can, and I, for one, would like to see some Association rates adopted for future working. Advances too, seem to be getting higher and higher, and at the same time labour is not too plentiful, although I believe Mundakayam has been as well off, if not better, in this respect than most districts in South India. With regard to the crops we may expect in Mundakayam, I think we may congratulate ourselves, that we are getting as much per acre from our

rubber, age for age, as our friends in that much vaunted little Island, Ceylon, while our prices realised are as good as any fetched by any other rubber in the market. If we can keep our rates down to their normal level, which is much lower than that of the Straits or Ceylon, there is no reason why South India Rubber Companies in general and Mundakayam Companies in particular, should not give higher dividends than those concerns whose capital costs are so high, and whose working is so dear, both in Ceylon and the Straits. With regard to tea I have not so much to say, as only one estate in the district—Peravanthanam—has reached the bearing stage, but from the growth we have, there is every reason to expect as rosy a future for this product as we expect for our rubber. The Association has agreed to the employment of a scientific officer for the district, and Mr. Nicoll has been asked to see Professor Wallace about the selection of a man likely to prove suitable for us. I trust the scheme will always command the support of the Association members and that those who are not participating in it will see their way to doing so at an early date. There is so much to learn in the finding out of the best method of producing the most latex in our trees, and again in the most economical extraction of it, that in this one branch alone, an alert scientifically trained man should be able to experiment and doubly repay us, by an actual increase of crop per acre, for all that we have decided to expect in this direction. In this connection, it has been said, I believe, by an eminent Ceylon Scientist, that pink disease and canker have been very prevalent in South India. I should like, here and now, to stoutly deny such an assertion so far as it concerns Mundakayam, and it can be easily disproved by any impartial observer paying a visit to any of the estates in the district. The year has seen the inauguration of the motor transport service which has already much benefitted the estates who were bold enough to participate in it, and the scope of the service will shortly be extended by an addition of two new cars, after which another opportunity may perhaps be given to estates to join in the scheme. With regard to the iniquitously high rate of freight on rubber to England, which the Association decided to try and get reduced, I am sorry to say that not much has been accomplished. I believe that the freight rates will be discussed and decided on the 30th of June next, however, and I would advise the Association to do its best, before then, to get a promise of a reduction in freight rates. I have been assured that strong representations are being made on our behalf by West Coast firms, and that it is very probable some reduction will be made, but we cannot expect a reduction if we quietly acquiesce in the present rates. As to legislation for labour troubles, this is in the air, as also a scheme of registration, which, so long as we have not got extradition will be useless to us. I fear legislation myself, and should be glad to find some mastermind had solved the difficulty for us in some other way."

Mr. ERIC HALL moved the adoption of the Chairman's report, which was seconded by Mr. ED. E. EYRE, and carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

The election of office-bearers for 1913 resulted as follows:—Chairman: Mr. G. H. Danvers-Davy; Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. Harley; Hon. Secretary: Mr. Edwin Vincent; General Committee: Messrs. Hammond, Hall, Murphy, Harley and Kirk.

THE SCIENTIFIC OFFICER SCHEME.

Mr. EYRE proposed that Mr. Anstead be asked to become an Hon. member of the Committee. This was seconded by Mr. GUDGEON and carried unanimously. The meeting then proceeded with the election of two members on the Committee in place of Dr. Danvers-Davy, Chairman and ex-officio member, and the late Mr. R. A. Fraser.

Mr. J. R. Vincent and Mr. Eric Hall were elected.

THE DIKOYA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE MECHANICAL TRANSPORT QUESTION.

AERIAL ROPEWAYS AND MOTOR LORRIES.

The Telephone Scheme.

The Annual Meeting of the Dikoya Planters' Association was held on the afternoon of February 6th, Mr. H. F. Laycock presiding. There were also present:—Messrs. L. C. Maudslay, P. H. Aste, C. W. Jones, G. Adams, R. F. Alston, A. D. Speirs, J. W. M. Playfair, W. W. A. Phillips, Thomas B. Benson, E. W. Napper, H. E. Cates, R. McGowan, G. F. Clarke, W. W. Moser, R. F. Christie, J. H. Armitage, H. F. C. Phillips, R. B. Arthur, H. G. Griffin, A. C. T. Meyer, S. C. Traill, R. H. Cooper, R. D. Kershaw, R. Huyshe Eliot, C. G. Spiller; and Messrs. Hew Kennedy, C. S. Prettejohn, J. P. Jukes, R. B. Harvey, R. F. Layard, J. D. Malcolm, J. Nicolls, and C. Mowle as visitors.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

The statement of accounts for the year was laid on the table, and the 38th annual report was read by the Chairman (Mr. H. F. Laycock) as follows:—

MEMBERSHIP.—There are 75 members on the roll—72 estate subscriptions, and 3 private members.

MEETINGS.—There have been 3 general meetings and 3 Committee meetings. The average attendance for Committee meetings was 12, and for general meetings 23. This is a satisfactory attendance, when the distances are considered, and show that members are taking a real interest in the work of the Association. At the same time your Committee would urge upon all members to fearlessly express their views, more especially the younger members; and not to leave the lion's share of the talking to those whose views are already well-known. In such a way only can the true feeling of the district be gauged.

OBITUARY.—It is with great regret that your Committee place on record the death of three prominent members of your Association.—Mr. R. H. S. Scott, Mr. H. R. A. Nimmo, and Mr. A. C. Paterson, all of whom bore their part in the work of the Association—and also the death of Mr. A. Wardrop, at one time an active member of this Association, and for many years Secretary of the Parent Association.

FINANCES.—Your Committee is pleased to report a credit balance of Rs. 268-33 to be carried forward to 1913. The thanks of the Association are due to the late Hon. Secretaries for so successfully husbanding the finances, for it must be borne in mind that 3 years ago the Association carried forward a debit balance.

CEYLON NURSING ASSOCIATION.—Your Committee are pleased to notice that good progress has been made with the new buildings at Hatton; and would heartily commend this most deserving institution for the support of all its members. An appeal has been made by the Ceylon Association in London urging all estates to pay an estate subscription, and your Committee would most earnestly recommend to all superintendents to help forward this appeal.

S. P. C. A.—The thanks of the Association are due to Mr. C. G. Spiller, Honorary Agent of the S. P. C. A., for the admirable way he has carried out his duties, often at great personal inconvenience. There is much less cruelty apparent than formerly, but for all that your Committee would urge every member to do all that he can to help forward the work, for though many cases are detected and punished, there still remain innumerable ones that pass unnoticed.

RAILWAY MATTERS.—Your Committee are pleased to notice the great improvement made at Hatton station for the entraining of motor cars, a matter which was brought before your Association recently; and your thanks are due to the Railway department for so readily acceding to the request for more adequate arrangements. The improved booking facilities have also tended to make the station more orderly. Your Committee regret to notice that the Refreshment Room leaves a good deal to be desired in the matter of cleanliness.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—Your Committee note with pleasure the improved condition of the main roads throughout the district. The stretches of road under repair are shorter, and the metal is rolled in much quicker by the steam roller now in use. Your Committee also notice that members whose estates border the cart-road have in most cases taken care to cut back dadaps and other shade trees at dangerous corners, a policy which they trust will be universally adopted. The deviation of the road at Wanarajah and the new bridge have been sanctioned by the Government, and the work has been energetically pushed forward by the P. W. D. This is a matter which your Association has been agitating for during a considerable period of time, and the thanks of the Association, and in fact all travellers, are due to the Government for meeting their request. Complaints and well-founded ones have been made with regard to Warleigh and Osborne bridges; and your Committee are glad to say that the former is now in good order, and the latter is receiving the attention of the D. R. C. with a view to making it a permanent structure.

HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL MATTERS.—Your Committee have pleasure in pointing the invariably good reports of the condition of the Glencairn Hospital, but they regret to notice that the District Medical Assistant has more than once been called away on relief duty, thereby leaving the medical staff undermanned. This is a matter that calls for the attention of the P. C. M. O., as complaints have been received of the inability of the medical staff to attend to estate calls of an urgent nature. The thanks of the Association are due to your hospital visitor, Mr. R. D. Kershaw, who has carried out his duties with the greatest acceptance for some years.

TRANSPORT.—Your Committee would call the attention of all members to the vital importance of giving the most careful consideration to the question of transport. Ever since the planting industry started the means of transport has been the same, the bullock cart. The time has now come, however, when it is absolutely necessary to look round for some other means. The recurring epidemics of disease among the cattle and the difficulty of obtaining animals to replace the loss by death are proof positive that the bullock cart is doomed, at any rate for estate transport. A member of your Association is proposing a most important resolution in this connection at the meeting of the Parent Association in Kandy, and your Committee would urge all members to strongly support the resolution, for unless some means of transport, other than the obsolete bullock cart be speedily brought into action, the transport of the island will soon be in a state of chaos.

TELEPHONES.—During the year the telephone installation has been started. The thanks of your Association are due to Dr. Stedman, who has worked most energetically to bring this about. Your Committee have pleasure in handing you his able report of what has been done during the year.

LABOUR.—Your Committee report that owing to extra cultivation more coolies can be employed than formerly. The question of recruiting in India, the only true solution of the labour question, is one which every superintendent should study, and your Committee would urge all members to use every endeavour to bring over fresh labour from the coast, and would cordially recommend free passages, which are already being given by many estates.

GENERAL.—The thanks of the Association are due to the *Times of Ceylon* and *Ceylon Observer* for sending reporters to the meetings; and are also due to the National Bank of India, Ltd., for conducting our finances free of commission.

THE TELEPHONE SCHEME.

The following is Dr. Stedman's report referred to in the Report:—

THE TELEPHONE SCHEME.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
Dikoya Planters' Association.

Dear Sir,

I beg to lay before you a brief review of the progress of the Telephone Scheme during the last twelve months.

I was appointed Hon. Secretary in the latter end of January, 1912, taking over from Mr. Hawkes. During the previous eighteen months much preliminary spade work had been done by Mr. Kershaw, the first Hon. Secretary, and by Mr. Hawkes, but nothing had been done in the matter of erection, with the exception that a certain amount of material was on order, and some miles of wire had actually arrived.

A Committee was called on January 31st, and a meeting of subscribers on February 8th, at which a workable scheme was planned.

The district was then again circularised, leading to the inclusion of several new subscribers in the list.

A machine was found and began work on the 16th of February.

The Government first required three exchanges, one for each post-office, but after considerable correspondence they accepted the principle of two exchanges, which it was decided to place in the Darrawella and Bogawantalawa Clubs. Afterwards at the request of the Government the Dikoya-Norwood exchange was transferred to Norwood Club.

By the middle of July it was found possible to join a few subscribers to the exchange and institute a temporary service.

By the end of September, there were 15 telephones thus working, and at the present date there are 20.

In addition to this a further 16 lines are now completely wired, only awaiting instruments, and considerable progress has been made with another 7 lines, some at least of which should be completed before the date of your meeting.

The number of subscribers now stands at 46 (including Darrawella Club which was given special terms) in addition to the telephones provided by the district, viz., the European doctor, the Glencairn Hospital, and the Bogawantalawa D. M. E., which brings the total number of telephones, when the system is complete, to 49 or, including the two exchanges, 51.

TRUNK LINES.—It is arranged for the Government to erect a trunk between Norwood and Bogawantalawa to be leased to us at an annual rental. This will then be free to subscribers. This will be erected as soon as the authorities can spare men for the work.

The Government are erecting another trunk between Norwood and Hatton, which will put the district also into communication with Kandy and Colombo. This, however, they will keep in their own hands charging a fee of 25 cents for each call. This is, like our own trunk, only waiting until the Government can spare men to undertake it.

The Hon. Secretary of the Maskeliya Telephones, in correspondence with the authorities concerning the erection of a trunk to join the Norwood and Maskeliya exchanges.

FINANCIAL.—Up to the present date Rs. 11,055, have been collected and Rs. 9,344.90 expended, leaving a balance in hand of Rs. 1,710.10. There are, however, outstanding liabilities to the amount of about Rs. 3,000.

It was estimated that the subscribers would be called upon for about Rs. 350 each for collection, and I still think this estimate will not be seriously exceeded. This amount still be collected from subscribers to bring their subscriptions to Rs. 350 each, is upwards of Rs. 5,000, which will be, I think, sufficient or almost sufficient to complete the system.

The above must only be taken as a rough statement of the position, but a proper balance sheet to the end of August was presented to a subscribers' meeting in November, and another has been prepared covering the period until December 31st, and will be presented to a subscribers' meeting at the first available date.

A few points I should like to mention more fully are as below:—

DELAY IN ERECTION.—This has been due to several causes, some beyond our control. Firstly mechanics. The first

mechanic was a Galaha estate cooly, and was recalled to the estate without notice to us. This resulted in a delay of nearly three weeks before another head mechanic could be engaged. The new mechanic, almost as soon as he arrived, became a "contact" in a suspected case of small-pox in Norwood and was isolated for ten days. Later in the year, owing to an affection of the eyes he had to be given sick leave to attend the Colombo Eye Hospital, being absent then over a fortnight. During the year, therefore, work has been delayed between six and seven weeks from this cause.

Secondly, there has been much difficulty in procuring material when required. The Government, as well as the commercial firms who deal in telephone materials, appear to hold very small stocks, so that several times the work has been considerably delayed for lack of material which it was impossible to obtain promptly.

With this is also bound up the lack of sufficient funds, which made it impossible to order more materials than were necessary for the work in hand at the time. Had it been possible to buy large quantities of material when they happened to be available, much time would have been saved. This lack of funds originated in the desire not to call up more money from subscribers than was necessary at the moment, and from the fact that neither the Secretary nor the Committee realised that there would be a famine in telephone materials, but the inconvenience was much enhanced by the difficulty in getting some of the subscribers to pay their calls when they were made.

A further cause of delay was the unwillingness of certain estates to lend labour, certain subscribers even refusing labour for their own line when crossing their own estate. A considerable number of days were lost during the year by the impossibility of procuring coolies.

INSTRUMENTS.—It has been impossible to procure instruments from the Government. It had been originally decided that Government instruments should be used, with a view to the possibility of the authorities taking over in the future. At the last meeting it was however decided to get instruments from outside, and we now have some in hand ready for erection.

LIGHTNING ARRESTERS.—I have been endeavouring to procure lightning arresters since the month of October. The Government having failed I tried all firms that seemed likely, but none had more than two or three odd ones, until eventually the Superintendent of Telegraphs offered to send a special order home for me for them. I had a letter saying he had done so in the middle of November, but still cannot get any news of the arresters.

SWITCH BOARDS.—The Superintendent of Telegraphs recommended two second hand boards to me. He gave me to understand that they had been displaced from Government exchanges, only by the increasing number of subscribers making the installation of larger switch-boards necessary. The Committee approved of the purchase of these, but they are not proving satisfactory, both having had to be sent to Colombo for overhauling. One is still there, but should be back ready for use within a few days. They are rather old, and seem very liable to develop faults without reason. I fear they were a bad bargain, and that it will be found better to sell them before long, if they are saleable and buy really new ones.

Finally I should like to offer my thanks to certain subscribers who have done much to assist me, especially Mr. Kershaw and Mr. Wyatt, who have both done a great deal in the way of supervision and lending labour and assisting in many other ways. Without their valuable assistance I fear the telephones would be far less advanced than they actually are.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) SAVIGNAC B. STEDMAN,
Hon. Secretary, Dikoya Telephones.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW.

The CHAIRMAN, commenting on the report, said that he was very pleased to notice that last year's excellent attendance at meetings had been maintained, and that he was more than pleased to see the commendable increase of those who expressed their opinions from among the younger members of the Association. That had been practically noticeable during the last two or three years, and was not

only a considerable help to the Chairman, but also showed that interest in the work of the Association and the affairs of the district in general was steadily increasing.

FINANCE.—With regard to finance they were now in a sound position, and substantial sum was being carried forward to next year. This reflected great credit on the late Hon. Secretaries to whom a vote of thanks was due. (Applause.)

WANARAJAH BRIDGE.—There were several other stand-out matters calling for attention, among them being the work on the Wanarajah bridge which was proceeding well, and on this the Government was to be heartily congratulated.

TELEPHONES.—The installation of telephones also called for comment. Dr. Stedman, in spite of innumerable difficulties of every description, had done extremely well. Correspondence with Government alone had been of an extremely lengthy description, and a hearty vote of thanks was due to him for the excellent progress which had been made—a motion which was enthusiastically supported.

ROADS.—With regard to roads Rs. 560 only out of an available Rs. 900 had been applied for. Many of the minor roads were badly in need of repair, and complaints were numerous. He strongly urged all Superintendents interested to apply for this grant and to keep these roads in as good order as possible.

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT.—The subject of mechanical transport was one of immense importance. He did not think that the Association as a whole had hitherto realised the importance of ousting the obsolete bullock cart and introducing a more efficient means of transport into the district. Having strongly advised them to join hands with the Maskeliya Association and any others who were anxious to forward any scheme of this kind. By doing so they would comment upon before vacating the chair, namely, he would recall to their minds the suggestion that had been brought forward a year ago, that of the division in the Dikoya Association. From being one of the largest and most influential Planters' Associations in the island they would then become two small and comparatively insignificant bodies. He felt sure that those with the interests of the Dikoya Planters' Association at heart would not help to forward the scheme.

The CHAIRMAN then moved the adoption of the Report, which was seconded by Mr. KERSHAW and carried unanimously.

The time had now come for Mr. LAYCOCK to express his farewell, and, in doing so, he thanked the members for their co-operation, and the kindness and courtesy with which he had been treated during the term of office. He then vacated the chair, and Mr. E. M. Wyatt, the oldest member in the district, was called upon to temporarily occupy the chair during the

ELECTION ON A NEW CHAIRMAN.

Before any names were brought forward, Mr. WYATT proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Laycock for the able and efficient manner in which he had forwarded the interests of the Association during his term of office. He was sure that they were all grateful to him for all he had achieved among the multifarious duties he had taken up.

Mr. R. HUYSHÉ ELIOT further reminded them that the late Chairman had been doing double duties of Chair-

man and Hon. Secretary for some time past, and that all the work of the Association had fallen upon his shoulders. A very special vote of thanks was therefore due to him. The "Hear, hear" and the hearty applause which followed showed that the meeting were fully in accordance with Mr. Eliot's views.

Mr. LAYCOCK briefly returned thanks.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the election of the permanent official in that position for the current year, and Mr. H. G. Eccles, proposed by Mr. LAYCOCK and seconded by Mr. HUYSHÉ ELIOT, was unanimously elected.

THE NEW CHAIRMAN.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Eccles) said: "I have to thank you very much for the great honour you have conferred in electing me your Chairman. I always think that it is the greatest honour a planter can attain—second only to the Chairmanship of the Parent Body—and it should be the endeavour of every planter to be in this position at some time in his planting career. In this instance it is particularly pleasing to myself, because I feel that I am comparatively new resident in Dikoya, although I spent some of my earlier days in this district and attended meetings of this Association. I shall ask for your indulgences for my shortcomings, and trust that you will remember the slight defect I have in my hearing, and so make my task easier in conducting these meetings. Beyond this I can assure you I shall do my best to fill the Chair worthily of the Dikoya Association."

APPOINTMENT OF THE HON. SECRETARY.

Mr. LAYCOCK then proposed the names of Mr. H. G. Griffin as Hon. Secretary for the current year. He was seconded by Mr. WYATT, and Mr. GRIFFIN was duly elected.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE.

The Committee was elected as follows:—Messrs. R. HUYSHÉ ELIOT, H. F. Laycock, G. F. Clarke, R. K. Clarke, J. R. Neale, R. D. Kershaw, T. Gidden, H. B. Daniell, F. J. Dunn, M. Elton Lane, E. Massy, M. H. Grant Peterkin, A. C. T. Meyer, R. G. F. Alston, E. M. Wyatt, M. L. Wilkins, G. O. Le Mottee, A. R. Milton, P. H. Aste, C. G. Spiller, L. C. Maudslay, R. F. Christie, A. D. Speirs, H. F. C. Phillips, A. C. Traill, J. H. Armitage, C. W. Jones, and the Chairman, and Hon. Secretary.

THE KANDY COMMITTEE.

The Kandy Committee was elected as follows:—Messrs. R. HUYSHÉ ELIOT, L. G. Maudslay, H. F. Laycock, the Chairman, and Hon. Secretary.

PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

Mr. H. F. Laycock proposed by Mr. R. HUYSHÉ ELIOT and seconded by Mr. S. C. TRAILL was unanimously elected as representative for the Planters' Benevolent Fund.

HOSPITALS.

Mr. R. D. Kershaw was re-elected Hospital Visitor and the work which he had done during the past year was highly commended.

CEYLON NURSING ASSOCIATION.

A letter was then read and the Secretary of the Ceylon Nursing Association requesting the re-appointment of a member to represent the district on the General Committee of the Ceylon Nursing Association. Members were also reminded that subscriptions to the Association were due, and must be paid before March 31st in order to secure the benefits of subscribers rates.

Mr. S. C. TRAILL was unanimously elected as representative on the General Committee of the Ceylon Nursing Association.

MINOR ROAD GRANTS.

The question of the Minor Road Grants came in for considerable discussion.

Mr. H. F. LAYCOCK explained that the amount available was the same as last year, namely, Rs. 900, of which Rs. 845 had already been requested.

A letter was read from Captain H. V. Greer asking for a grant towards a permanent bridge between London and Aldie.

It was decided that Captain Greer should send a direct application into Government and which receive the support of the Association.

Mr. R. HUYSHÉ ELIOT then suggested that a protest be made to the Government as estates are themselves compelled, when making an application for a road grant, to pay an equal amount towards the work. This system, had, he believed, crept into vogue during the past five years, and he suggested that the D. R. C. be asked to revert to the old system. He pointed out that only Rs. 560 had been applied for last year, which meant a loss to the district of Rs. 340, and this he maintained was sufficient reason in itself for protest.

Mr. H. F. LAYCOCK warmly supported him, saying that he himself had protested similarly for several meetings past. He said that the money was collected for the road tax, and that in the majority of cases these roads were used by native travellers for the most part, so that it was hardly in the interests of the estates to maintain them under the present condition.

Mr. JONES remarked that he believed the same question was brought up in Maskeliya three years ago, and Mr. Kennedy said that he believed that the Maskeliya Planters' Association had received a reply from Government on the subject.

Mr. TRAILL was of an opinion that it was a subject which all the Planters' Associations should take up, for then Government would be compelled to take notice.

Mr. HUYSHÉ ELIOT then brought forward his resolution:—"That this Association do protest against the methods now adopted by the D. R. C. in the appropriation of the sum collected by the road tax, namely that in the case of all road grants applied for a like amount has to be spent by the applicant, which often proves a hardship as instanced the past year when only Rs. 360 out of Rs. 900 could be utilised. They would urge that the grant should be given unconditionally."

The motion was seconded by Mr. H. F. LAYCOCK and carried unanimously.

OSBORNE BRIDGE.

A letter was read from the Chairman of the D. R. C. intimating that the Committee was of opinion that the

repairs to the Osborne Bridge should be of a permanent nature, and that an estimate for the work had been called for.

Mechanical Transport.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the discussion on mechanical transport, said that it was a most important subject, which had not hitherto been very enthusiastically taken up by the Association. It was a matter deserving of the Association's strongest support, and he understood that there were members of the Maskeliya Planters' Association who were present to urge the formation of a sub-Committee of the Dikoya P. A. with a view to forwarding this object.

Mr. KENNEDY (Maskeliya P. A.) gave information as to how they had discussed the matter in Maskeliya, saying that two methods of transport had come up for consideration—firstly that of motor lorries, and secondly that of a feeder railway to feed both Maskeliya and Dikoya. This latter was, however, dropped, but the question of lorries had come in for a good deal of discussion, although nothing definite had been arrived at. The fact of the Wanarajah Bridge being under repair and not like to be finished for some time rather prevented any system of lorries being definitely placed upon the roads, for some time at any rate.

Mr. WYATT then suggested

AERIAL ROPEWAYS

objecting to the lorries on account of labour, which would not be directly available. Aerial ropeways, he maintained, would be economical, and there would be no interference with land excepting for places where stations were to be erected. A good water system and power was available. He therefore proposed aerial ropeways in opposition to motor lorries. The ropeways, he said, was but in its infancy, but plenty of expert advice might be obtained on the subject. He suggested that the Planters' Association should appoint an expert for the island. The roads, he said, were unsuited to motor traffic.

Mr. R. HUYSHÉ ELIOT was of opinion that though the roads at present were unsuitable for motor lorries they could be made suitable if Government took the matter up. In many districts immediate relief was wanted, and for that reason he was rather more in favour of this form of transport as against aerial tramways. Expert advice regarding the latter was hardly necessary as the ropeways had already been constructed in the island and proved a success. One thing he must emphasize, and that is that the scheme must be comprehensive. The whole district would have to take it up, and the initial outlay being high, that might prevent people joining in, and the fact of the ropeway passing over the tea at a short distance from the ground might also prove an objection. He suggested that Government should be approached directly on the road question, and that the Parent Association be asked to take the matter up. He was of opinion that if estates gave their land free and paid half cost of improvements to the roads Government could raise no objection to proceed with the work.

Mr. TRAILL was of an opinion that the forwarding agents would take the matter up *gradually*. Bulls, he said, were no longer a profitable investment owing to rinderpest and increase in cost. He, too, was in favour of lorries, but

maintained that a low speed-limit should be insisted upon. Aerial ropeways would be hardly feasible, but in the event of lorries he felt sure forwarding agents would find them profitable and would fall in with the scheme.

Mr. KENNEDY emphasized what he had said previously, namely that Maskeliya were not in favour of any particular scheme at present, but that they were making exhaustive enquires and going fully into statistics.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the appointment of a sub-Committee to meet the Maskeliya Planters' Association and to assist them in forwarding any scheme for mechanical transport.

The Committee was elected as under:—Messrs. R. Huyshe Eliot, H. Francis Laycock, Lionel C. Maudsley, J. A. Armitage, A. D. Speirs, M. L. Wilkins and E. M. Wyatt, in addition to the Chairman and the Hon. Secretary.

Mr. R. HUYSHE ELIOT then brought forward his resolution, which was seconded by Mr. R. H. COOPER and unanimously supported by those present.

Resolved:—"That this Association do bring to the notice of the Parent Association the urgent importance of the question of transport throughout the planting districts, and would urge on them the advisability of approaching Government on the subject of mechanical transport and the rendering of roads serviceable for the same."

Correspondence.

A letter from the Punduloya Planters' Association, enclosing the following resolution, was then read, and was warmly supported.

That coolies who have been sent to the coast from an estate and who on coming back do not return to their own estate, but give a false estate name and information at Ragama, may be prosecuted in the District Court to which the original estate belongs instead of in the Colombo District Court according to the present Ordinance.

DAUGHTER CORNERS.

Mr. R. HUYSHE ELIOT proposed that the Parent Association be asked to take the matter up.

A letter was then read, re "the Corners on the Wana-rajah Branch Road as under.

The CHAIRMAN said that he had since received a letter asking those interested to form a Committee with regard to the road.

CORNERS ON WANARAJAH BRANCH ROAD.

From the District Engineer, Dikoya, to the Chairman, Dikoya Planters' Association.

January 3rd, 1913.

Sir,
With reference to your letter of the 23rd ultimo, and further to my No. 797 of the 28th ultimo, I am instructed to inform you that the proper course to be adopted by the local Planters' Association when seeking improvements to branch roads is as follows:—

2. To address a letter to the Chairman of the P. R. C., C. P., Kandy, specifying the nature of the improvement desired, stating in particular the positions of the blind corners required to be cut down.

3. Such application must also contain the statements:—(a) That the members of the local committee or those who subscribe to the maintenance of the road are prepared to pay half the cost of the improvements asked for; and (b) that the owners of the land on which the corners are situated will give the land required free of compensation, and the owners of the land below the road will allow the depositing of spoil, cut from the corners, on their land free of compensation.

4. So soon as the application reaches me for the Chairman of the P. R. C. an estimate will be furnished for the necessary work, and you will be duly informed the amounts which those interested in the matter will have to pay.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) P. M. BATTLE,
District Engineer.

A letter from the Hon. Secretary, K. V. P. A., was then read.

Waharaka, Undugoda,
January 31st, 1913.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
Dikoya Planters' Association.

Dear Sir,

I have been directed by this P. A. to forward the following resolutions and ask your Association for their support, which we hope will be given.

CATTLE DISEASE.

"That Government be asked to add to their staff of inspectors and veterinary surgeons to better cope with diseases in general."

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) R. H. VILLIERS,
Hon. Secretary, Kelani Valley P. A.

The motion was unanimously supported.

ARRACK TAVERNS.

A letter was read forwarded from the Secretary of the Planters' Association of Ceylon and signed by the Government Agent of the Central Province regarding the

MAXIMUM QUANTITY OF ARRACK TO BE REMOVED.

Kandy, 23rd January, 1913.

THE HONORARY SECRETARY,
Dikoya, P. A.

Dear Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 22nd November last, I beg to enclose herein for your information copy of a letter received from the Government Agent, C.P., re above subject.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) JOHN STILL,
Secretary, P. A. of Ceylon.

ARRACK TAVERNS.

Kandy Kachcheri,
31st January, 1913.

THE SECRETARY,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

Sir,

With reference to your letters, dated the 3rd and 8th January, 1913, I have the honour to inform you that it has been considered necessary to open the following new arrack taverns from 1st July, 1913:—

UDA BULATGAMA DIVISION.

At Norwood.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) G. S. SAXTON,
Government Agent, C. P.

Mr. LAYCOCK, in answer to a question as to what resolution had been passed at the last meeting, said that a letter had been received with a footnote saying that arrack taverns would be placed at Maskeliya-Norwood and Harnish.

This was protested against as Hatton and Kotiagalla as sites for these taverns were considered sufficient.

Mr. R. HUYSHE ELIOT said that the opening of an arrack tavern at Norwood was not to be accepted without protest. No taverns should be opened without notice being given or without consideration of the opinion of those interested. He said that the Government claimed that the opening of new taverns would stop the illicit sale of

liquor. Mr. Eliot maintained that this was very open to question, that the cooly was not proof against temptation, and that it would not prevent the illicit sale of liquor or the retail of arrack in the lines. He suggested that a very strong protest be made in this matter.

Mr. TRAILL was of a like opinion.

Mr. LAYCOCK then proposed the following resolution of protest, which was seconded by Mr. KERSHAW and unanimously supported.

Resolved:—"That this Association would most strongly protest against an arrack tavern at Norwood, which they considered highly unnecessary and inimical to the interests of the coolies."

This was sent direct to the Government Agent.

Mr. R. HUYSE ELIOT further suggested that this question should be brought up in Kandy on the 14th instant, when the question of arrack taverns would be discussed.

HOSPITAL.

Mr. Kershaw's report on the hospital at Glencairn was read as under:—

REPORT ON GLENCAIRN HOSPITAL.

Visited on the 3rd February, 1913.

The number of patients on date of my visit was males 39, females 26—total 75.

Wards.—Very clean.

Latrines.—Very clean.

Bath rooms.—Very clean.

Staff.—Sufficient on day of my visit.

Complaints.—None.

Food.—Satisfactory.

Grounds.—In good order.

REMARKS.—The D. M. A. has been removed to another station and at present the relieving medical officer of Kandy is acting, pending a new appointment of a D. M. A.

(Signed) R. D. KERSHAW,
Hospital Visitor,
Blair Athol, Dikoya.

TELEPHONE SECRETARY.

The following letter from Dr. Stedman was then read tendering his resignation of the post of Telephone Secretary for the district. Appended was a letter from Mr. D. G. Brebner, of Kew estate, which was given as the reason for his resignation. Dr. Stedman had issued a circular, which had been sent round the district, explaining the difficulties and the reason for delay in the progress of the work. A hearty vote of thanks had already been expressed, and the sympathy of all present was certainly with him.

Bridge Bungalow,
Norwood, February 1st, 1913.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
Dikoya P. A.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to request you to lay my resignation of the position of Hon. Secretary of the Telephones before the meeting on Thursday next.

I take this step somewhat reluctantly, as I could have desired to retain the position until the erection of the entire system was at least practically complete, which should now be only a matter of weeks.

As however I find that some, at least, of the subscribers are not satisfied with my endeavours to carry out the work, I feel it is due both to the District and to myself to make way for a more efficient Secretary immediately.

Under the circumstances I should be glad to be relieved as soon as possible.

I enclose a letter which will perhaps make my reasons for resigning clearer.

I also beg to enclose a brief report on the progress of the telephones from February, 1912, when I took over the Secretaryship, until now. This report I had intended to send you in any case, but in view of my retirement it comes opportunely.

Believe me, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) SAVIGNAC B. STEDMAN.
(Enclosure.)
TELEPHONES.

"Kew" Estate, Norwood,
February 1st, 1913.

S. B. STEDMAN, Esq.

Dear Sir,

I enclose cheque Rs. 100 on account of above. To me it seems absolutely disgraceful the dilatory way in which things are being done, and at the rate things are going on it will be years before the telephones are working. Can the P. A. not be asked to take the matter up?

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) D. G. BREBNER.

Mr. R. D. KERSHAW, therefore, brought forward the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. E. M. WYATT and universally supported:—

"That the Hon. Secretary, District Telephones, be requested to reconsider his resignation as the work is nearing completion. At the same time this Association would ask Mr. Brebner to withdraw his letter, which they consider uncalled for, inasmuch as the circular recently sent to all subscribers clearly explained the cause of delays; also that this Association passed a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Stedman for the good work he has already accomplished."
—Carried *nem con.*

This, together with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chair, terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) H. GORDON GRIFFIN,
Hon. Secretary, D. P. A.

AMBEGAMUWA PLNTERS' ASSOCIATION.

The thirty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Ambegamuwa Planters' Association was held at the Central Hotel, Nawalapitiya, on February 6th, at 1 p.m. Mr. M. L. Wilkins presided, and the others present were:—Messrs. Ian H. M. Clark, Ralph Bennett, W. J. Mason, F. F. Fernando, W. M. Wade-Gery, O. Balean, P. R. Shand, E. O. Craddock, C. D. Chilcott, H. S. Stevens, E. H. Hitchcock, E. G. Bantock, H. O. Lebbe, A. R. Milton (visitor), B. H. F. Lethbridge (visitor), and B. B. Benison (Hon. Secretary.)

The notice convening the meeting was read. The minutes of the previous meeting were duly confirmed.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The CHAIRMAN called upon the Hon. Secretary to read the annual report, which was as follows:—

REPORT FOR 1912.

Your Committee have pleasure in presenting their report for 1912.

OBITUARY.—During the year the Planters' Association of Ceylon sustained a severe loss in the death of Mr. Alexander Wardrop.

REGISTER OF MEMBERS.—The number on the roll is 43, being the same as last year.

FINANCE.—The accounts have been duly audited and show a credit balance of Rs. 260.69, which is ample for the requirements of the Association.

WEATHER.—The weather during the year was fairly normal, but the closing months were not quite favourable.

LABOUR.—There is little change to record, but some estates are better off.

RICE.—This has been a very expensive commodity throughout the year, and a heavy loss has been incurred by our estates.

DONATION.—The usual donation of Rs. 50 was paid to the Hatton Nursing Home during the year. The privilege to nominate a non-member of the C. N. A. to have the benefit of member rates has been duly exercised. Your Committee is of the opinion that this valuable institution should be supported.

MEDICAL.—Your Committee deplore that while a substantial sum has been voted by Government for the urgently needed extension of the Nawalapitiya Hospital no progress can be recorded, and your Hospital Visitors' reports on the Nawalapitiya Hospital and Watawala Dispensary will be laid before you.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—Roads in this district are in fare order, reflecting credit on the District Engineer, but it is to be regretted that nothing has been done in regard to the extremely dangerous corners on the main road.

RAILWAYS.—An early down train on Sunday mornings from Nawalapitiya is a much felt want, there being no train between late on Saturday evening and Sunday after 1 p.m.

The thanks of our Association are due to Mr. W. J. Mason for having audited the accounts, and to the National Bank for doing our banking free.

The CHAIRMAN called for remarks, amendments or additions.

Mr. SHAND responded with a few brief remarks about dangerous corner between the 2nd and 3rd mile-post on the Hatton-Nawalapitiya main road. He observed that it was not only a source of danger to traffic, but also to pedestrians, especially to estate coolies.

It was decided that the Secretary should correspond with the Government Agent about this particular corner and place the whole correspondence before the next meeting.

The CHAIRMAN observed that all the essentials of the doings of the Association were focussed in the report and he, therefore, found no necessity to dilate on the items. On vacating the chair, Mr. P. R. Shand was asked to fill it *pro tem*.

Mr. SHAND now eulogised the good work done during the year under review by Mr. R. B. Benison, the Hon. Secretary, the office-bearers and the Committee, who spared no pains in working for the welfare of the Association. He paid a high tribute to the able way in which Mr. Wilkins had filled the chair. At Hatton Mr. Wilkins was proposed as their Chairman in place of Mr. Blackmore, and he had much pleasure in proposing his re-election.—This was seconded by Mr. W. J. Mason and carried unanimously.

Mr. WILKINS amid loud applause, said that, he would do his best for this Association and thanked them for re-electing him.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

HON. SECRETARY:—Mr. R. B. Benison was unanimously re-elected Hon. Secretary.

LOCAL COMMITTEE:—Messrs. F. J. Fernando, A. R. T. Gibbon, S. P. Blackmore, O. Balean, W. J. Mason, H. M. Gordon, H. C. Bryett, W. C. Lloyd, J. Aymer, Grigg, and C. D. Chilcott.

KANDY COMMITTEE:—Messrs. S. P. Blackmore and O. Balean.

HOSPITAL VISITORS:—Messrs. O. Balean, and E. H. Hitchcock.

AUDITOR:—Mr. W. J. Mason.

CEYLON NURSING ASSOCIATION:—Mr. M. L. Wilkins.

PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND:—Mr. O. Balean.

VIGILANCE COMMITTEE:—Messrs. H. S. Stevens, S. P. Blackmore, and M. L. Wilkins.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. Scoble Nicholson's letter of thanks:—

Netherleigh, Nuwara Eliya,
November 30th, 1912.

R. BROOK BENISON, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary, Ambegamuwa P. A.,
Heatherton, Rozelle.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge with many thanks your letter of November 27th, conveying to me the vote of thanks for my services as Chairman, passed at the last meeting of your Association. Will you kindly convey to the members of your Association my appreciation and thanks for the compliment.

Yours faithfully,
H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON.

SHOT-HOLE BORER.

The following reply, sent by the Hon. Secretary of the Ambegamuwa P. A. to the Secretary of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, was read:—

"In reply to your P. C. of 17th instant, the original letters referred to were mislaid. This pest is found with few exceptions in all the lower estates in this district, i.e., estates below Carolina, Lonach, and Hardenhuish (including those estates.)"

RINDERPEST.

The following reply sent to the G. A., Central Province, in regard to the Proclamation issued by him re rinderpest at Hatton was then read:—

Sir,
I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 4,926-10,114 of the 16th instant (December). Contents of which are noted. This Association will be glad to assist Government in any way in its power in stamping out, or checking this serious epidemic.

Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) R. B. BENISON,
Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN here observed that it was a source of gratification to find that the epidemic was considerably reduced.

C. G. R. AND LIQUID FUEL DRUMS.

Correspondence was read on this subject, as given at other P. A. meetings.

COCA CULTIVATION.

A letter from the Hon. Mr. G. S. Saxton, G. A., C. P., to the Secretary of the Planters' Association of Ceylon at Kandy, that no coca plant shall be cultivated or collected under the authority and subject to the terms and conditions of a license granted in that behalf by the G. A., under section 14 of the Excise Ordinance No. 8 of 1912, was read.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that, as no coca was cultivated in these parts, the Ordinance was of little interest to them.

CARDAMOM THEFTS ORDINANCE.

Correspondence on cardamom thefts was read.

Mr. H. STEVENS complained that cardamoms have been stolen from his estate; and to this the Chairman asked Mr. Stevens to send full particulars and he would write to the Kandy Committee on the subject.

INTER-DISTRICT ROADS.

The following letter was read from the District Road Committee :—

District Road Committee,
Kandy, January 17th, 1913.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the sum of Rs. 355 is available for upkeep of the inter-district roads in the Ambegamuwa district during 1913.

2. I am to request you to submit a list of apportionments for approval at an early date.

ARRACK TAVERNS.

The following correspondence of an important matter, which is engaging the serious attention of many interested in the welfare of Ceylon, was then placed before the meeting :—

MAXIMUM QUANTITY OF ARRACK TO BE REMOVED.

Kandy, January 23rd, 1913.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
Ambegamuwa P. A.

Dear Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 22nd November last, I beg to enclose herein for your information copy of a letter received from the Government Agent, C. P., re above subject.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) JOHN STILL,
Secretary, P. A. of Ceylon.

Kandy Kachcheri,
January 21st, 1913.

THE SECRETARY,
P. A. Ceylon, Kandy.

Sir,

With reference to your letters dated the 3rd and 8th January, 1913, I have the honour to inform you that it has been considered necessary to open the following new arrack taverns from July 1st, 1913 :—

Uda Bulatgama Division at Hardenhuish.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) G. S. SEXTON,
Government Agent, C. P.

The CHAIRMAN said that he had received a telegram from Mr. Bryett regretting his inability to attend the meeting, but he was absolutely against the introduction of an arrack tavern at Hardenhuish. The Chairman supported Mr. Bryett's objection and thought that the tavern would lead to drunkenness and only demoralise the coolies.

"That the proposed arrack tavern should not be introduced" was then put in the form of a resolution and carried.

FRUIT HILL CORNER.

The following correspondence was read :—

Strathdon, Hatton,
23rd January, 1913.

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
Norwood.

Sir,

I have the honour to request you to be good enough to let me know if it is proposed to do anything further to this corner.

The "benching" is an improvement which we greatly appreciate, but the main trouble, i.e., turning a car or other vehicle, is as difficult and dangerous as ever.

I hoped to meet you and talk matters over, but have not had the opportunity, so I now write to know whether it would be possible to widen the road a little rough paving would do as per sketch—and pile some of the stones and earth from the recent cutting on the spot indicated. This would enable cars to reverse in safety, which is now impossible, as the wheels do not grip on the grass, and there is a danger of a car going backwards into the river. This actually happened some time ago.

The suggestion is not an expensive one, and I am sure this Association and the public would be grateful to you if you can give effect to it.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) M. L. WILKINS,
Chairman.
25th January, 1913.

THE CHAIRMAN,
Ambegamuwa P. A.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 23rd instant [received to-day] on the above subject, I have the honour to inform you that the question is under consideration.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) P. M. BATTLE,
District Engineer.

The CHAIRMAN said this corner was one of the sharpest in Ceylon. He feared that Government misunderstood their agitation and in compliance with their request to improve matters. The present state is no better. The corner is dangerous to motor-cars, and he hoped that ere long an improvement can be recorded.

THE CEYLON NURSING ASSOCIATION.

The following letter from the Secretary of the Ceylon Nursing Association was read :—

Hatton, January 30th, 1913.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
Ambegamuwa P. A.

Dear Sir,

My Committee would be glad if, at your general meeting, your Association would re-appoint a member to represent your district on the General Committee of the Ceylon Nursing Association. Would you also kindly remind members that subscriptions to the Ceylon Nursing Association are now due and must be paid before March 31st, in order to secure the benefit of subscribers' rates.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) M. W. THOMPSON,
Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN spoke in high terms of this Association, and was of opinion that more should join to help and to strengthen this laudable institution. He said that illness always brought vividly before the patient the need for such an institution, and it behoved them therefore to do some service to it and for it.

KELANI VALLEY PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

The following letter was read, and those present supported the resolution of the K. V. P. A. :—

Waharaka, Undugoda,
January 31st, 1913.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
Ambegamuwa P. A.

Dear Sir,

I have been desired by this P. A. to forward the following resolution and to ask your Association for their support, which we hope will be given.

CATTLE DISEASE.—"That Government be asked to add to their staff of Inspectors and Veterinary Surgeons to better cope with disease in general."

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) R. H. VILLIERS,
Hon. Secretary, K. V. P. A.

THE HOSPITAL REPORT.

Report on the Nawalapitiya Hospital for 1912.

Imboolpitiya, February 3rd, 1913.

The general high state of cleanliness and efficiency, within the limits imposed by the dilatory attitude of the authorities as regards accommodation, has been well maintained during the past year reflecting great credit on the D. M. O. and staff.

I regret to state that nothing has been done during the year to relieve the disgracefully overcrowded condition of the wards, especially the female ward. This matter I brought to your notice at the last general meeting.

I understand that Dr. Hunt, the Inspecting Medical Officer, visited the Hospital on January 8th, 1913, and I have good authority for stating, he reported, "that while the general condition of the Hospital was good and that it was spotlessly clean it was in a chronic condition of overcrowding," and he also recommended that a modern operating table be supplied.

The site of the new wards was inspected by the P. W. D. in February, 1912, evidently the result of the strong letter sent to the Colonial Secretary by this Association, jointly with the Dolosbage and Kotmale Associations. Mr. Nettleton, the then District Engineer, also several times visited the site and took measurements. He has been transferred to another district. His successor, Mr. Worth, also paid sundry visits and took sundry measurements. He has been transferred to another district. There is now a new District Engineer, and I doubt whether he even knows that new wards and a new D. M. O.'s bungalow are to be put up. The result of all this is that nothing has been done, not even any building materials accumulated on the spot; not even a temporary ward put up. I understand that the money required was voted in 1912, so that the blame rests with the P. W. D. In the meantime our coolies with fever, dysentery, etc., are compelled in many cases either to sleep on the floor, under beds already occupied, thus grossly overcrowding the wards, or in open verandahs with no protection from the very heavy mists, which settle in the river valley, especially during the N.-E. monsoon, and which cover the hospital as well as all Nawalapitiya with a thick white cloud.

The supineness of the P. W. D. authorities, and whoever else is responsible for the disgraceful delay of the past twelve months, is such that I strongly advocate this Association approaching the highest authority with a definite request.

1. That work in the new ward and D. M. O.'s bungalow be started immediately.
2. That if the P. W. D. is unable to do the work at once it be given out on contract.

(Signed) OSWALD BALEAN,
Hospital Visitor.

REPORT ON WATAWALA DISPENSARY.

Watawala, Rozelle,
February 3rd, 1913.

I visited the above dispensary at 10.30 a.m. on the 3rd instant and found the dispensing department to be clean and in good order. No patients were being treated at the time of my visit.

There are repairs needed in the Dispenser's quarters—a wall in one room is badly broken and cracked, also the roof leaks a little. The rest of the building is in good repair.

(Signed) E. H. HITCHCOCK.

NAWALAPITIYA HOSPITAL.

The CHAIRMAN, in thanking Mr. Balean for his interesting report, said that it disclosed a scandalous state of affairs in regard to the delay in beginning such an urgently necessary work.

It was resolved to communicate with the Colonial Secretary on this subject.

THE KANDY CEMETERY.

The following letter from Mr. Shand was read:—

Coolbawn, Nawalapitiya,
February 1st, 1913.

CHAIRMAN,
Ambegamuwa P. A.

Dear Sir,

I beg to point out that the Kandy Cemetery is in a very bad state, and should like if our Association could help to improve its condition.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) P. R. SHAND.

Mr. SHAND, who was present at the meeting, gave a detailed description of the neglected state of the Kandy Cemetery. The memory of an old friend of his, Mr. Taylor,

whom he thought many of them present would remember and who died in 1892, took him to the cemetery and, then to his utter dismay, he found the whole place overgrown with weeds, and what was more the monument erected to the memory of his friend was shamefully neglected. He also mentioned several others who were buried in the cemetery, and who during their life-time did much for the honour and glory of this Island and their graves were not recognisable. To remedy this sorry state of affairs, he suggested that a Committee should be formed, including some of the Kandy members, so that they might regularly visit the cemetery and set matters right. Mr. Wight, of the National Bank of India, he said, kindly consented to take an interest in the cemetery and especially in the Presbyterian portion; and towards the formation of a Committee and especially for the cemetery at Kandy he was pleased to allow the use of his bungalow for the proposed meeting. A small subscription and an energetic Committee, thought Mr. Shand were sufficient to rectify matters and reinstate the lost purity and sanctity of the cemetery.

The CHAIRMAN said he was glad that Mr. Shand brought this matter before the meeting, and added that he would endeavour to be present at the proposed meeting.

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting terminated.

MASKELIYA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE NUWARA ELIYA—HATTON COURT.

THE LOCATION OF TAVERNS.

The 41st Annual General Meeting of the Maskeliya Planters' Association was held at Maskeliya Club on February 12th, at 3 p.m. Mr. Hew Kennedy presided, and others present were:—Messrs. C. M. Henry, C. C. Hood, P. H. Unwin, A. P. Jukes, L. A. Wright, J. E. Massy, J. P. Chapman, S. B. Bell, P. C. Adams, R. McCorquodale, C. B. Loudoun-Shand, W. H. Brymer, C. P. Riccard, E. Allfrey, H. J. Day, J. D. Malcolm, C. L. M. Scott, S. Johnson, A. G. Speirs, R. Chapman, F. Charnaud, A. W. Greig, G. O. Nicolls (Visitor), and C. B. Prettejohn (Hon. Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were read from Messrs. Maclure and Wedd.

The notice convening the meeting was read, and the minutes of the previous meeting were duly confirmed.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The CHAIRMAN called upon the Hon. Secretary to read the Annual Report, which was as follows:—

Your Committee beg to submit their 41st Annual Report. Before proceeding with the review of the year they wish to place on record their regret at the premature departure of His Excellency Sir Henry McCallum owing to ill-health.

OBITUARY.—Your Committee wish to place on record their deep regret at the great loss sustained by the planting community through the death of Mr. Alexander Wardrop, late Secretary of the Planters' Association of Ceylon.

MEETINGS.—During the year four General and four Committee meetings have been held. The average attendance has been 22 at General, and 10 at Committee meetings.

MEMBERSHIP.—There are 52 estates in the district, all of which are members of this Association. One private voter brings the total to 53.

ACREAGE AND CROP.—The area comprises:—

17,886	acres of tea in bearing.*
548	do immature tea.
266	do clearings opened during 1912.

making a total of 18,700 acres under cultivation.

The crop for the past year was: Black tea 8,112,527 lbs., Green tea 368,847 lbs., being an average of 474 lbs. per acre calculated on the tea in bearing as against 458 lbs. per acre for 1911. The estimated crop for 1913 is: Black tea 8,498,000 lbs., Green tea 375,000 lbs.

WEATHER.—The average rainfall for the year was 134.15 inches as against 135.36 inches in 1911. During the first half of the year favourable weather was experienced, but the latter half was very wet and crop on most estates suffered in consequence.

PRICES are again satisfactory and well maintained.

PESTS.—Although the district is more or less free from pests, your Committee wish to place on record the first notification of Shot-hole borer on an outlying estate in Maskeliya at an elevation of about 3,000 feet, and would urge all members to take every precaution to keep this pest in check as far as possible. The report of your representative on the Plants Pests Board is appended.

PLANTS PESTS.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE.

APPOINTMENT.—On 21st November, 1911, I was appointed to succeed Mr. David Kerr as the member of the Plants Pests Board for the revenue district of Kandy, to represent Maskeliya, Dikoya and Ambegamuwa. The appointment is in force for three years from above date.

ACTION.—Up to 14th August last, pests generally did not seem to be aggressive; nothing came before the Board, at any rate from the above districts. On that date I received a letter from the Superintendent of an estate in Watawala, reporting prevalence and increase of "Shot-hole borer" in that district, and complaining that proper steps were not being taken to combat it. I then wrote to the G. A., Kandy, who is the Chairman of the Board, and a meeting was called for 14th September, which I attended. The minutes of the meeting are subjoined.

POWERS OF BOARD.—Before any action can be taken the pest has to be proclaimed in the Government "Gazette." After it is proclaimed the Board have the power, with the approval of the Committee of Agricultural Experiments to take such steps for the eradication, arrest, or prevention of the pest in question as may seem desirable. It will be seen that it is one thing to have the power to take such steps and another thing to exercise that power, in the case of "Shot-hole borer."

REMEDIES.—Many remedies have been tried, such as burning or burying prunings, and no doubt both have some effect, but Mr. Green, the Government Entomologist, and those with most experience with the pest, think that the only real remedy is good cultivation. Others advocate the planting of dadaps. Where these trees are, they say there is much less borer. If all three remedies are adopted, so much the better, there is a greater chance of successfully fighting the enemy. Mr. Green gives it as his opinion that "burying" is preferable to "burning," the latter necessitates carrying the prunings, and in the process the "borer" escapes to "pastures new," whereas "burying" can be done immediately and on the spot. Now the Plants Pest Board have the power, as I understand the ordinance, to compel an estate to take such steps for the eradication, arrest or prevention of a pest as may seem desirable, in other words to cultivate. The question is, is this practicable? If an estate will not or cannot cultivate what then?

SUGGESTIONS.—It seems to me it is a matter that individual districts should consider locally, and try to arrive at some decision as to what steps can be taken, and then, if necessary, they can appeal to the Plants Pest Board to help them to carry out the steps. One necessary precaution is well within their power, and that is to see that no tea plants from infected areas are brought into the district. There is no doubt the borer is spreading upwards; it has already reached an estate in Lower Maskeliya. Fortunately the superintendent realises the importance of cultivation, and let us hope it will be checked. The opinion has been expressed by those with experience of it,

than it is not likely to prove serious at an elevation of 3,000 feet or over. The only advice that can be given to superintendents at the lower elevations is to watch carefully when they are pruning, and if they find the pest spreading to report it.

INDICATIONS OF THE PRESENCE.—"Shot-hole" borer is first noticed by the smaller side branches, which have been perforated by it, breaking off while coolies brush against the bush. For some reason climatic or other the "borer" has been worse in 1912 than for some years back.

WHITE ANT GRUB.—There is another pest that is sometimes mistaken for "borer," that is the grub of the white ant, which eats up through the stems of the tea bush, leaving only shell, and then into the thicker branches. This is bad enough, but it is not nearly so serious as borer. It attacks individual bushes, or groups of five or six bushes. If the bushes are cut low, and a solution of kerosine oil or Jeye's fluid applied to the cavities, they often recover. The tea bush has wonderful vitality, the only thing that I know of that kills it outright is "Rossellinia" canker.

(Signed) R. MACLURE.

LABOUR may be said to be generally sufficient for requirements. It is a matter for regret that advances are higher this year than in 1911, and your Committee suggest that no improvement in this matter can be expected until united action is taken, and they regret that they see no signs of any activity in this direction as yet.

COAST AGENCY.—Your Committee once more urge all members to do their utmost to recruit coolies from the coast, and encourage their kanganyes to use the medium of the Ceylon Labour Commission to further this end.

RICE.—The price of rice has ruled high throughout the year, and there seems to be no prospect of an appreciable fall in the price of this commodity in the near future which is a matter for regret.

HOSPITAL.—Appended is the report of the hospital visitors to the district hospital from which will be seen that an addition to the wards and an increase of the nursing staff are matters that require attention.

REPORT ON MASKELIYA HOSPITAL.

The hospital has been visited three times during the year. Female wards during the unhealthy parts of the year were overcrowded, and an additional ward as urgently required, so that the medical and surgical cases might be kept separate, which is impossible with the present accommodation. This additional ward could also be used for maternity cases when necessary. A drying shed for clothes is necessary. The outlying grounds surrounding the hospital might be kept in better order than at present, as they are overgrown with weeds. To do this an additional cooly should be allowed, as the space is too large for present allowance. The present wide space in the cart road at the far end of the hospital grounds might be made good for a turning place of carts, etc., coming to and from the hospital. The majority of the cases treated during the year were ankylostomiasis, and treated successfully when taken in time. No statistics of any sort were available for reference. The medical staff appear to be sufficient for the present requirements except in nursing, which should be increased as it is impossible for one nurse to attend to all the cases thoroughly during the unhealthy season; this matter is urgent.

(Signed) C. E. WEDD,
A. P. JUCKES,
Hospital Visitors.

ROADS.—Your Committee regret that up to now no steps have been taken to remedy the evil of the centre of the roads being lower than the sides, largely due to the grass edges of the roads and the soil from the drains being spread and heaped on them, and they would point out that it is owing to this that what was formerly a hard surface is now unsafe for heavy traffic, making passing a matter of great difficulty for loaded carts. Your Committee would advocate the entire surface of the roads being metalled instead of the wheel tracks only.

TRANSPORT.—Your Committee would draw your attention to the necessity for bettering the present inefficient means of transport of estate produce and supplies. Owing to the recurring outbreaks of disease amongst bulis, a rise in carting rates is threatened, and they would point out the urgent need for

mechanical transport. Quite recently a sub-Committee was appointed to act in conjunction with Dikoya and press for a feeder railway, and pending this becoming an accomplished fact, to thrash the question of motor traction.

GRANTS TO INTER-DISTRICT ROADS.—The following grants for upkeep of travellers' roads have been applied for:—Stockholm-Crudon Rs. 100, Upcot-Annandale Rs. 25, Dikoya-Maskeliya Rs. 50, Mousakelle-Braemar Rs. 15, Nayanza-Claverton Rs. 50, Kincora-Kew Rs. 25, Upcot-Meeriaccotta Rs. 50.—Total Rs. 315.

TELEPHONES.—Fifty lines are now connected to the district Exchange, and are working fairly satisfactorily. It is hoped that in 1913 connection by trunk lines to Hatton and Norwood will be effected.

DONATIONS.—Rs. 30 was given to the S. P. C. A., and your Committee recommend a donation of Rs. 30 being made to the Ceylon Nursing Association.

BENEVOLENT FUND.—Your Committee would again draw your attention to the claims of this worthy institution and would urge all members to subscribe to it.

VOLUNTEERING has flourished in this district during the year, and the C. M. R. is well supported. It is a matter of regret that C. P. R. C. does not get better support, and it is to be hoped that the younger members of the district to whom a horse is too great an expense will come forward and join this Corps. Report of the C. P. R. C. is attached.

C. P. R. C.

REPORT ON UPPER MASKELIYA DETACHMENT "A" COMPANY FOR 1912.

At the beginning of 1912 this detachment consisted of the following volunteers:—Lance-Corpl. Stevenson (Section Commander), Lance-Corpl. Harvey, Volunteer Braine, Volunteer Malcolm, Volunteer Shand, Volunteer Boyd Moss; to add to these there were two recruits, Volunteer Newbry and Volunteer McDonald; and two transferred from other districts: Volunteer Sprinks, Volunteer Charnaud; making a total of 10. Of these three have left the district and have been transferred to other detachments.

DRILLS.—All men made themselves efficient for the year, either by attending camp, or putting their requisite number of drills on the range, and attendance in this respect has been satisfactory.

CAMP.—This was attended by four members of the detachment out of seven then existing, which is quite a good average.

SHOOTING.—Out of a total of ten men who have qualified on the range this year 2 are marksmen, 2 are first class shots, and six are second class shots. This, I am sorry to say, shows rather a low average, and points to the fact that more private practice is wanted. The weather of course has had something to do with this, making it uncomfortable and sometimes impossible to shoot on the days when the range is open for practice. I hope, therefore, that more practice will be seen in 1913, and that each member will have an M against his name in the Commander's Roll Book at the end of the year.

RECRUITS.—Out of a good number of men who have come to the district either as S. D.'s or Creepers only two have joined during the year, the general excuse being that they want to secure a permanent billet before actually joining and are frightened to take the plunge. P. D.'s and those with Creepers could do much to further the interest of the corps by making these young fellows send in their names. The expense is practically nil. They get a cheap holiday at camp every year, and a day off once a month for drill and shooting which surely ought not to worry the most exacting P. D. I therefore hope for 1913 that we shall see an increased number at recruit in our detachment here.

(Signed) R. B. HARVEY,
Sergeant, C. P. R. C.

GENERAL.—Your thanks are due to the Honorary Hospital visitors for their services during the year, also to the *Times of Ceylon* and "Ceylon Observer" for sending their representatives to report meetings, and to the "Ceylon Independent" for their donation of a free copy of their paper throughout the year.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. L. A. WRIGHT and unanimously adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

Mr. KENNEDY, before vacating the chair, spoke as follows:—Before vacating the chair I would like to make a few remarks on the more important events of the past year. I will not detain you long, and will only touch briefly on the various points. It is a matter of universal regret that our late Governor Sir Henry McCallum should through ill-health have had to resign his appointment before the expiry of his term of office, and I would suggest that a letter expressing our regret at his premature departure, and wishing him speedy recovery be addressed to him from the Maskeliya Association. Crop figures for the past year show an increased yield of 16 lbs. per acre over the previous year, and in view of the most inclement weather experienced in 1912, this is a most satisfactory result. You heard in the report that the worst enemy of the tea bush, Shot-hole borer, has appeared in Maskeliya. Mr. Maclure in an exhaustive report, has told us the best means of keeping it in check, and I trust that should it appear on any other estate every precaution will be taken to prevent it spreading further afield. No report would be complete without some remarks on the labour question, and our report is no exception to this rule. I will not enlarge on it as it is a well-whipped horse. United action is our only hope, and we must live in hope that some day the unexpected may happen, and all planters will combine and tackle the question as one man. Your hospital visitors have clearly stated the urgent need of sundry additions to wards and staff, and I trust you will back them up an press for these improvements. That hardy annual roads is again before us, and a great deal can be said on the subject, but I will not weary you, as this question will be gone into most carefully by the sub-Committee appointed to consider the question of motor traction. One thing that in my opinion is most important is the need for a more generous application of metal to the roads. I may safely say that excepting the main Maskeliya-Norwood road the metalling has been quite insufficient, and I trust that instead of a system of metalling of wheel tracks only we may see a complete surface of metal laid down during 1913 on every road in the district. Before I leave the subject of roads, I must refer to the grants for travellers' roads and the most unfair conditions upon which Government make these grants. You will doubtless remember that practically every year this matter crops up, and protest after protest has been sent in by this Association so far without avail. A strongly-worded resolution was unanimously passed by the Dikoya P. A. and I trust, gentlemen, you will not leave this matter alone until better conditions have been obtained. At our last meeting it was the general wish of members to press for a Light Railway from Hatton to Maskeliya, and it is to be hoped that this wish may be realised. It is a greatly-needed addition to our transport, more especially as the road from Norwood to Hatton does not seem to be able at present to stand the strain of the existing traffic. And now, gentlemen, I think I have said enough. I thank you for your regular attendance during the year and for the able assistance you have rendered me, and I sincerely hope that before this Association holds its next annual meeting great progress in the matter of traction will be effected, and the present hazardous means of transport will be replaced to at any rate supplemented by a reliable form of motor traction.

Mr. JUCKES moved that Mr. Wright take the chair, and Mr. LOUDOUN-SHAND seconding this was agreed to.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

Mr. WRIGHT: My first duty, gentlemen, is a pleasant one, namely, to call for a hearty vote of thanks for our retiring Chairman. We all appreciate the time, energy, and increasing interest he has taken on our behalf during his term of office, and I think you will agree with me that, if we can induce him to resume the chair, we may consider ourselves fortunate.

Mr. JUCKES: I entirely endorse what Mr. Wright has said, gentlemen, and as you know Mr. Kennedy has deeply interested himself in Motor-Traction, a point of very vital importance to us all, I consider it inadvisable to change horses when crossing a stream, and have great pleasure in supporting the proposal that Mr. Kennedy be elected Chairman.

Mr. KENNEDY, expressing his thanks and appreciation of the compliment paid him, said he had hoped that as he had held office for two years, the meeting would have seen fit to elect someone else as new blood was, he thought, always advantageous, but as they had elected him he should do his utmost to safeguard their interests, and hoped for their support during the coming year, and trusted that the meetings held throughout the year would be well attended, and that the younger members would come forward and do their utmost to help towards the welfare of the district. He further said that Mr. Prettejohn had consented to act as Hon. Secretary for a further year and proposed a vote of thanks to him for his work during the past season.

Other Officers were elected as follows:—

HON. SECRETARY.—Mr. C. B. Prettejohn.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.—Messrs. Maclure, Henry, Unwin, Finch, Noyes, Jukes, Wright, Harvey, J. P. Chapman, J. R. Massy, Hood, Wedd, G. Johnson, Cotton, and S. Johnston.

KANDY COMMITTEE.—Messrs. Jukes, Wright, Chairman and Hon. Secretary.

C. N. A. COMMITTEE.—Mr. L. A. Wright.

HOSPITAL VISITORS.—Messrs. Jukes and Loudoun-Shand.

DISTRICT ROAD COMMITTEE.—Messrs. Kennedy (Chairman), Harvey, Jukes, Wright.

BENEVOLENT FUND.—Mr. C. B. Prettejohn.

HON. AUDITOR.—Mr. L. A. Wright.

Correspondence.

POSTAL IRREGULARITIES.

Read letter from the P. M. G.

General Post Office,
Colombo, January 10th, 1913.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
Maskeliya Planters' Association,
Maskeliya.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, forwarding copy of a resolution passed at a General Meeting of your Association, and to request that you will be so good as to furnish me with particulars of the irregularities complained of.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) W. MACREADY,
for Postmaster-General.

The CHAIRMAN: This letter is in answer to a resolution unanimously passed at our last meeting which the Hon. Secretary was instructed to forward on to the P.M.G. I may add that a further letter giving particulars of the irregularities complained of has been sent in answer to the above and acknowledged notifying that the matter is receiving attention.

Read letter from Government Agent, Central Province.

Kandy, January 7th, 1913.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
Maskeliya Planters' Association,
ADDITIONAL STOCK INSPECTOR.

Sir, I have the honour to inform you that the additional Stock Inspector's headquarters are at Hatton.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) G. S. SEXTON, G.A. C.P.,

Read letter from the Hon. Secretary, P. A. of Ceylon.

Kandy, January 15th, 1913.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
Maskeliya P. A.
GOVERNMENT ENTOMOLOGIST.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 6th instant, was read at a meeting of the General Committee held on 10th instant, and the following resolution passed:—"That the question be left in the hands of the Committee of Agricultural Experiments."

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) JOHN STILL,
Secretary, P. A. of Ceylon.

CEYLON NURSING ASSOCIATION.

Read letters from the Secretary, C. N.A.,
Hatton, January 9th.

C. B. PRETTEJOHN, ESQ.,
Hon. Secretary, Maskeliya P. A.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 6th instant:—There is no change in the amount of subscriptions to the Ceylon Association. The amounts due are Rs. 15 per annum for married subscribers and estates, and Rs. 10 for unmarried subscribers.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) M. W. THOMPSON,
Secretary.

Hatton, February 1st.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
Maskeliya P. A.

Dear Sir,

My Committee would be glad if, at your General Meeting, your Association would re-appoint a member to represent your district on the General Committee of the Ceylon Nursing Association, in place of Mr. H. A. Webb, who has hitherto done so. Would you, also, kindly remind members that subscriptions to the Ceylon Nursing Association are now due and must be paid before March 31st in order to secure the benefit of subscribers' rates.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) M. W. THOMPSON,
Secretary.

NUWARA ELIYA-HATTON COURT.

Read letter from Mr. S. B. Bell, who on speaking read a notice [an extract from the *Times of Ceylon*.—Ed.] and said he had little doubt that members had experienced the inconvenience referred to of cases being postponed and transferred to the Nuwara Eliya Court entailing both unnecessary expense and great inconvenience to the parties concerned; and he would suggest that at least two

settled days a week be allotted to the Hatton Court, which he considered they were justified in asking for.

Mr. WRIGHT supported this and endorsed what the previous speaker had said.

Adam's Peak Estate,
Maskeliya, 19th January, 1913.

TO THE HON. SECRETARY,
Maskeliya P. A.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the above:—Within the last month I have had three cases of running in bolters, and on each occasion the cases have been transferred to Nuwara Eliya—which means the extra expense of kanganyies having to appear up there. In the interest of the district, might I suggest that “the Magistrate be written to, through the P. A., and asked, what are the dates for holding Court at Hatton.” When Hatton and Nuwara Eliya were created into a “district” I understood the Magistrate's time was to be equally divided between the two Courts, but I am now told four days a month is all that is given up to Hatton. If such is the case, I think the matter should be enquired into. Could it be brought up at our next P. A. meeting?

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) S. B. BELL.

DIMINISHING WORK AT THE HATTON COURT. PRESENT ARRANGEMENT TO BE ALTERED.

Since late there has been a marked fall in the number of civil, money and planting cases instituted in the Hatton Court, and as a result the sittings which formerly used to be held every alternate week has now been reduced to one day every alternate week, rarely exceeding five days in the whole month. This arrangement resulted in the few police cases that were brought to this Court having to be taken to Nuwara Eliya at considerable inconvenience and expense. It now transpires that the Judge has decided to preside at the Hatton Court the first two days of every week, and it is hoped, for the convenience of the Hatton public, that this may be extended.—*Hatton Cor.*

Mr. CHAPMAN complained of the delay incurred under the present *regime* in obtaining warrants.

The following resolution proposed by Mr. BELL and seconded by Mr. WRIGHT was carried unanimously:—

“That the Magistrate should be asked to notify on what day Court will be held at Hatton, and that two consecutive days at least be given weekly to Hatton.”

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the above resolution be sent to the Colonial Secretary, and copies sent to the Dikoya, Kotmalie and Ambegamuwa Associations asking them for their support.

BRANCH ROADS.

Read letter from Chairman, Provincial Road Committee.

Branch Roads Department,
Provincial Road Committee,
Kandy, 8th February, 1913.

C. B. PRETTEJOHN, ESQ.,

Hon. Secretary,
Maskeliya Planters' Association,
Maskeliya.

MASKELIYA BRANCH ROADS

Sir,

With reference to my letter No. 38 of the 11th January, 1913, I have the honour to state that the Provincial Engineer reports as follows:—“I recently inspected the roads to which resolution appears to refer, and I noted that the drain of the road in many places on the roads from Norwood to Upcot, and from Maskeliya to Lucombe contained a quantity of tea prunings, and by the side of the Upcot road and the Cruden road there were piles of weeds taken from the estates heaped up by the sides of the roads; this practice, to which attention was called through the Secretary of Maskeliya Planters' Associa-

tion, is one of comparatively recent creation. A considerable amount of expenditure is incurred through the necessity of removing this rubbish from the road sides. The District Engineer has been instructed to give his attention to the matter complained of.”—

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) W. B. L. ROGERSON,
for Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I consider this a most unsatisfactory reply to the resolution previously sent by this Association and do not think it covers the text of the point, namely that owing to the sides of the roads being higher than the wheel tracks proper drainage is impossible, and thereby renders them most unsafe for passing traffic. What little rubble was washed from estate drains into those on the road side would clear itself if only the latter were kept clear of grass and weeds. Surely what had been accomplished in the past, could be done again now. I consider we should again write the P. R. C. on this subject.—*Carried.*

Read letter from District Road Committee, Kandy.
District Road Committee,
Kandy, 17th January, 1913.

J. R. BELL, Esq.
Hon. Secretary,
Maskeliya Planters' Association,
Meeria Cotta, Maskeliya.
GRANTS TO INTER-DISTRICT ROADS.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the sum of Rs. 315 is available for upkeep of the Inter-district roads in the Maskeliya District during 1913.

2. I am to request you to submit a list of apportionment for approval at an early date.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. MARSHALL,
Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN said a list of appointments had been duly forwarded.

FALSE INFORMATION AT RAGAMA:

Read letter from Secretary, Pundaluoya Planters' Association.

TO THE HON. SECRETARY,
Maskeliya P. A.

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by this P. A. to forward the enclosed resolution, and to ask your Association for their support, which we hope will be given. I shall be obliged for an answer.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J. B. SIDGWICK,
Chairman and Secretary.

“That coolies who have been sent to the Coast from an estate—and who on coming back do not return to their own estate, but give a false estate name, and information at Ragama, may be prosecuted in the District Court to what the original estate belongs—instead of in Colombo District Court, according to the wording of present Ordinance.”

Resolved:—“That the Hon. Secretary be instructed to write and say the resolution submitted had met with this Association's unanimous support.”

Read letter from Secretary, Kelani Valley P. A., enclosing resolution that Government be asked to add to their staff of stock inspectors and veterinary surgeons.

Resolved:—“That the Hon. Secretary do write and say that the resolution submitted had met with this Association's unanimous support.”

Read letter from the Hon. Mr. G. S. Saxton, G. A., C. P. re coca growing.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that as coca was not cultivated in these parts the Ordinance was of little interest to them.

TREATMENT OF COOLIES AT RAGAMA.

Read letter from Mr. J. Wood.

Brownlow Estate,
Maskeliya, 11th February, 1913.
THE HON. SECRETARY,
Maskeliya Planters' Association, Norwood.

RAGAMA CAMP.

Dear Sir,

With reference to my letter of 19th September, 1912, the case was tried in the District Court of Colombo on the 7th instant.

I gather from the *Times of Ceylon* of yesterday's date that the two accused were sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment, and that an appeal is to be filed.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J. WOOD,
Superintendent.

The CHAIRMAN thought that, if all cases of coolies in Ragama Camp not being properly treated were referred direct to the Superintendent of the Camp, it would facilitate redress, and the labour force would realize that the planters were studying their interests. He would add on both occasions that complaints had been made from that district the offending staff had been duly punished.

Excise.

Read letter from the Secretary of the Parent Association enclosing copy of letter from Mr. G. S. Saxton, Government Agent, Central Province.

Kandy, 22nd November, 1912.
THE HON. SECRETARY,
Maskeliya P. A.

MAXIMUM QUANTITY OF ARRACK TO BE REMOVED.

Dear Sir,

I beg to enclose herein for your consideration and the favour of an early reply a communication received from the Government Agent, C. P. *re* above subject.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) JOHN STILL,
Secretary, P. A. of Ceylon.

Kandy Kachcheri, 12th November, 1912.
THE SECRETARY,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

MAXIMUM QUANTITY OF ARRACK TO BE REMOVED.

Sir,

As arranged at your Committee meeting on the 8th instant, I have the honour to send you a list of new arrack taverns in the Kandy district which it is suggested shall be opened next year.

I shall be glad if you will obtain the views of the various Planters' Associations concerned. Please understand that these are only suggestions which I hope the Association will consider with reference to what should be the amount of arrack which any individual should be allowed to carry. One bottle has been suggested, but it is, I think, universally admitted that if the amount is limited to such a small quantity, the number of arrack taverns must be increased.

I am, Sir,
Yours Obedient Servants,
(Signed) G. S. SAXTON,
Government Agent, C. P.
(Signed) M. A. YOUNG,
Office Assistant,

New arrack taverns to be opened :—

UDA BULATAGAMA.

In Hardenhuvish Bazaars.

Within Sanitary Limits of Norwood.

Within Sanitary Limits of Maskeliya.

Mr. L. A. WRIGHT proposed : " That this Association strongly deprecates the proposal to open arrack taverns at Maskeliya and Norwood, and are of opinion that it would lead to an increase of consumption in the district. In view of the existing taverns at Hatton and Bogawantalawa the new ones are in no way necessary." Mr. Wright, in speaking to this resolution, said : The following are some cogent reasons against Government opening more arrack taverns in our midst :—

1. There are already taverns at Hatton and Bogawantalawa. These have been sufficient for the requirements of the district for the last 30 or more years.

2. If the temptation to drink is placed before a low-caste cooly every time he goes for his weekly supply of rice and provisions, he is far more likely to become a victim than if he has to tramp to Hatton for his liquor.

3. The argument that he would probably take his glass only instead of buying a bottle if a tavern is fairly handy shows a lack of knowledge of the temperament of the Tamil cooly.

It is generally allowed by all planters of experience that the usual habit of a cooly who drinks is to drink as much as he can quickly, in order to get drunk as soon as possible. I hold that a tavern nearer home will not stop illicit sale, but will merely make the obtaining of supplies easier for the illicit purveyor. It is well known and generally allowed that illicit sale is practised close by as well as at a distance from a tavern. Another striking proof of the undesirability of extra taverns in the neighbourhood is that head kanganyies in the district are dead against them. As far as keeping coolies out of debt, etc., goes, their interests are identical with the planters. Ask your head kangany yourself. If we ask Government to establish these taverns in our midst we shall be the first planting district that has yet done so. The keenness of the renter to open a tavern in Maskeliya shows that he, at any rate, anticipates a larger volume of business. In the past we have as an Association repeatedly vetoed the opening of a tavern at Maskeliya, and personally I fail to see any altered conditions which should make us require one now. Furthermore I have here a petition signed by 45 head kanganyies of the district protesting strongly against the opening of the proposed arrack tavern at Maskeliya.

Mr. HENRY : I cordially support all Mr. Wright has said, and I think, gentlemen, we should leave no stone unturned in trying to suppress the growing evil of drink among our coolies. It is at the bottom of a large percentage of our labour troubles, and is undoubtedly on the increase. I personally am strongly opposed to an arrack tavern being opened in our district.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. P. C. CHAPMAN and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chair concluded the meeting.

(Signed) C. B. PRETTEJOHN,
Hon. Secretary, M. P. A.

KANDY DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

LAST YEAR'S DROUGHT AND ITS EFFECT ON PRODUCE.

SHOT-HOLE BORER AND CACAO CANKER.

LOSS OF LETTERS AND PARCELS IN THE POST.

The Annual General Meeting of the Kandy District Planters' Association was held in the Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, at 2 p.m. yesterday. Mr. A. Lee Simpson presided, and the others present were:—Messrs. G. J. Murray, C. C. du Pre Moore, G. Kenion, Gordon Pyper, snr., D. A. Miles, Stanley Hillman, H. F. Dalton, Gordon Pyper, jun., Dr. J. W. De Hoedt, and Messrs. L. H. S. Peris and Ed. W. Keith (Hon. Secretary).

The notice convening the meeting was read and the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed.

THE REPORT.

The Hon. Secretary submitted the Annual Report which was as follows:—

ANNUAL REPORT.

MEMBERSHIP.—The number of subscribers to the Association during 1912 was 52 as against 52 in 1911. Two estates and one private subscriber have given notice of their intention to resign from the Association as from 31st December, 1912.

FINANCES. Your finances are in a satisfactory condition, there being a credit balance of Rs. 32.21 at end of 1912. The audited accounts and balance-sheet are laid on the table for inspection.

MEETINGS.—During the year four General Meetings and four Committee Meetings have been held, and we are pleased to note that they have been much better attended than for some time previously.

TEA.—The year opened with a drought accompanied by cold North-East winds, which lasted well into April. A rush of leaf was experienced in May, but in June the South-West Monsoon made its appearance, and in July flush was considerably reduced. The rest of the year was disappointing as regards crop, especially October and November which are usually the best flushing months of the year in the Kandy district. The rainfall was not as well distributed as usual in spite of the total registered being above the average. Taken all round, 1912 must be considered an unfavourable year for tea, the long drought and the prevalence of wind throughout the season accounting for most of the shortage of leaf. Shot-hole borer is still very much in evidence; but it cannot be said to be much worse than in previous years. Cultivation, burying or burning of all prunings have done much to keep it in check. Other insect and fungoid pests do not affect this district in any marked degree. Prices during the year have been well maintained, and prospects for 1913 are promising.

COCOA.—The 1911 crop, though a poor one, came in late with a good deal of pod-diseased cocoa. A good blossom set during June and July, and then the crop looked most promising, but heavy rains later in the year in November and December brought about a large percentage of pod-disease, which necessarily means a shortage. In spite of every care and attention, it seems as if we shall never be able to entirely eradicate canker on the pods. Shade generally we think has had more attention, and *helopectis* consequently has been more rife.

RUBBER.—During the early part of the year a severe drought seriously retarded the flow of latex, and during the last few months of the period under review the continuous wet weather interfered with tapping; and yields throughout the district have fallen short of estimates. As compared with previous years, the new acreages that have been opened have been small. Rubber throughout the district has been very free from disease of any kind. Prices have kept up even throughout the year, and there does not appear to be any likelihood of any

serious fall in the market for some time to come, provided proper attention is paid to curing and drying. Uniformity is the great thing to aim at. Thefts of rubber are on the increase, and it is very satisfactory to note that where convictions have been obtained severe sentences have been inflicted.

LABOUR.—Labour has been coming in better from the Coast, but is still short of requirements. There is a good deal of unrest among coolies, and advances are increasing.

ROADS.—Roads have been in fair order, but are far too narrow in places. Special mention should be made of the way metal is heaped at corners and in narrow parts making it very difficult for carts to pass each other. Government are taking up the matter of widening the roads, but rate of progress is very slow. The vote for this purpose should be increased.

HOSPITAL.—

To CHAIRMAN,

K. D. P. A., Kandy.

Dear Sir,

The Kandy Hospital has been visited on two occasions during the year, once by myself alone, and in November by Mr Simpson and self. On both occasions it was found clean and in good order, and not overcrowded. The few recommendations made, we hope, will be considered and carried out by the P. C. M. O.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) GILBERT JAMES.

BENEVOLENT FUND.—It is with regret that your Committee note that only a few estates belonging to our Association have contributed to this fund during the year. It may not be generally known that as much as Rs. 21,600 has been paid during 1912 towards pension, &c., to deserving cases, and your Committee would urge superintendents and assistant superintendents to recognise the good work done, by subscribing liberally during 1913 to this most deserving fund, and thus enable it to extend its good work even more than hitherto.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

The CHAIRMAN said that in previous years it had been the custom to have the Annual Report printed and circulated among members. It was for them to decide whether that should be done this time as well. However, as it would be published in full in the newspapers, members might cut it out if they wished to have a copy of it. He took it that they did not wish the report to be printed separately and circulated. As regarded the report itself, the various reports in it were very full, and it was not necessary for him to submit to them a review of the year because those reports spoke for themselves. Before vacating the chair he, however, wished to pass a vote of thanks to all those members who had written out those reports, and he wished the meeting to carry that proposal in the usual manner. (Applause.) Thanks were also due to the reporters for having attended all their meetings and for the very careful reports they had made of the proceedings. With those few words he would leave the chair, and it rested with them to elect a Chairman *pro tem* and a permanent Chairman for 1913. In conclusion he thanked them very much for the support they had given him during his term of office. (Applause.)

THANKS TO RETIRING OFFICE-BEARERS.

Mr. G. J. MURRAY, who occupied the chair *pro tem*, said that their first duty was to thank the retiring Chairman and that was about the pleasantest duty the Acting Chairman had to perform. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Simpson had done good work for the Association for five and a half years; there was no difficulty in getting him to do anything; and he had done everything possible to further the interests of the Association. (Applause.)

Then, as regarded the Secretary, the Chairman would have been far more capable in referring to his services and how much he had done for the Association. (Applause.)

Mr. A. LEE SIMPSON: If I may be allowed to speak a few words at this stage, I may say that my very best thanks and the thanks of the Association are undoubtedly due to Mr. Keith for the excellent work he has done during the years I held office. He is a model Secretary and when I say that there is no need to speak any further. (Applause.)

Mr. G. J. MURRAY: I beg to endorse everything that has been said; and I think every member of the Association will agree with me in passing a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Keith. (Applause.)

Mr. C. C. DU PRE MOORE ELECTED CHAIRMAN.

Mr. Ed. W. KEITH proposed that Mr. C. C. du Pre Moore be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Mr. G. KENION seconded.

Mr. DU PRE MOORE, however, proposed that Mr. E. W. Keith be appointed Chairman.

Mr. A. LEE SIMPSON said that Mr. du Pre Moore's name was before the meeting. Mr. Keith, he understood, would take up the Chairmanship if no one came forward.

Mr. C. C. DU PRE MOORE was then unanimously elected Chairman, and, taking the chair, thanked them for selecting him. He thought they were taking a 7 to 1 chance, as they might have selected seven better men to the office. (Laughter.) He would, however, do his best for the Association. (Applause.)

CAPTAIN F. E. HENDERSON ELECTED HON. SECRETARY.

Mr. G. KENION said he understood that Mr. Geo. Murray was agreeable to act as Secretary. Failing him he would propose the name of Captain F. E. Henderson as Hon. Secretary for the ensuing year.

Mr. G. J. MURRAY excused himself and proposed that Mr. E. W. Keith be re-elected.

Mr. KEITH declined on the ground that he was very hard-worked. Captain Henderson, he thought, was the best man.

Captain F. E. Henderson was then unanimously elected Hon. Secretary, and till he assumed duties Mr. G. Kenion was to act as Hon. Secretary *pro tem*.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The following General Committee was elected for the ensuing year:—Messrs. E. F. Hume, Stanley Hillman, G. J. Murray, G. Kenion, Gilbert James, Gordon Pyper, jr., J. B. Coles, W. A. F. Murray, Harold Stevenson, E. W. Keith, A. Lee Simpson, and H. F. Dalton.

KANDY COMMITTEE.

The following were appointed to represent the Association on the C. P. A. Committee:—Messrs. G. J. Murray, A. Lee Simpson, E. W. Keith, and the Chairman and Secretary.

HOSPITAL VISITORS.

Messrs. A. Lee Simpson and Gilbert James were appointed Hospital Visitors.

PLANT PESTS BOARD.

Mr. G. KENION proposed that Mr. C. C. du Pre Moore be appointed to serve on the Plant Pests Board as he knew more about poochies than any one else there. (Laughter.)—Carried.

CEYLON NURSING ASSOCIATION.

The CHAIRMAN said that they had to appoint a representative from the district to serve on the General Committee of the Ceylon Nursing Association.

Mr. A. LEE SIMPSON said that nothing would induce him to serve on that Committee and attend their meetings. (Laughter.)

Mr. G. KENION: I propose Mr. Gordon Pyper as the most eligible bachelor in the room for the office. (Laughter.) If he refuses we shall have to fall back on Mr. Dalton, another bachelor. (Laughter.)

Mr. Gordon Pyper, jr., was then appointed representative, notwithstanding his protests.

PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

The Chairman and Mr. G. Kenion were elected to serve on this Committee.

CATTLE DISEASE.

The HON. SECRETARY read a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Kelani Valley P. A., forwarding the following resolution, and asking the Association for their support:—

That Government be asked to add to their staff of inspectors and veterinary surgeons to better cope with diseases in general.

On the motion of Mr. E. W. KEITH, seconded by Mr. STANLEY HILLMAN, the Association agreed to support the resolution.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

The HON. SECRETARY read a letter from Mr. G. H. Borough in which he said that he should be "extremely interested to know why the subscription has risen to Rs. 17-50, and on what the money can possibly be spent."

It was proposed to suggest to Mr. Borough that he attend the meetings of the Association if he wished to know how the money was spent.

ARRACK TAVERNS—QUANTITY TO BE REMOVED.

The HON. SECRETARY referred to a notification received about the opening of a village arrack tavern in Tumpane, and also about the maximum quantity of arrack that it was thought should be allowed to be removed from a tavern at one time. In connection with this he read the following letters he had received from those who had been written to on the matter:—

Nilambe Estate,
Galaha, November 29th, 1912.

Dear Simpson,

I am not interested in the Tumpane district, but if I was I should object very strongly to more taverns being opened.

I think the maximum quantity of arrack to be removed should be limited to a bottle, and I can see no necessity for increasing the number of taverns if this is closed.

Yours, etc.,
(Signed) JOHN B. COLES.

N.B.—Tumpane district is between Peradeniya and Galagedera. Kurugama comes into it.—J. B. C.

Kurugama,
Peradeniya, December 30th, 1912.

HON. SECRETARY,
Kandy, D. P. A.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 3rd instant, the two villages referred to in the enclosure (now returned) are too far away to affect this estate.

Yours, etc.,
(Signed) G. KENTON.

The HON. SECRETARY said that Mr. A. Lee Simpson had also written endorsing what Mr. Coles had written. "One bottle, and no further," he thought, should be allowed to be removed.

Mr. A. LEE SIMPSON remarked that they had any number of letters on that subject of the maximum quantity to be removed; and everyone voted for one bottle and no further.

The HON. SECRETARY: Mr. Stanley Hillman is interested in the country of Tumpane and should know the village Erandugaha—something where it was proposed to open a new tavern.

Mr. STANLEY HILLMAN, too, said he would not be affected by the opening of that tavern.

The matter then dropped.

The HON. SECRETARY tabled a copy of a "Gazette" notification regarding arrack and toddy taverns in the Kandy district, 1913-14, forwarded for their information by the Hon. Mr. G. S. Saxton, Government Agent of the Central Province.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR LETTERS AND PARCELS POSTED.

The HON. SECRETARY read the following letter:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 7th January, 1913.

THE HON. SECRETARY,
Kandy District Planters' Association.

Sir,
In continuation of my acknowledgment of your letter dated the 3rd December on the subject of losses of parcels, etc., in the post, I am directed to observe that it appears from reports of the meeting of your Association in the *Times* and the "Observer" that the losses complained of are attributed mainly to the Kandy Post Office.

2. Only two concrete complaints are urged in support of your Association's charges against the Post Office. In both cases the packets were unregistered and in neither case can it be alleged with any certainty that the Post Office is responsible for the loss. Such slender material appears to His Excellency to afford no justifiable ground for instituting a special enquiry.

3. I am to remind you that adequate provision is made in Ceylon as elsewhere to enable the public to ensure the safe transit of articles sent by post on payment of a trifling fee for registration. This precaution ensures a hand-to-hand check on the packet registered, and while it would be unreasonable to expect the public to observe this precaution for their ordinary correspondence, His Excellency considers that the registration system affords the proper remedy for the state of things which your Association alleges to exist in respect of articles of any value. Neither in Ceylon nor in any other part of the world is it possible to keep a hand-to-hand check on the transit of a multitude of unregistered letters and packages through the post, even assuming that it were possible in the first instance to prove that the honesty of the persons responsible for delivering the articles to the post or for receiving them therefrom was above suspicion. The fixing of responsibility for any particular lost packet is therefore a matter of great difficulty unless the packet has been registered.

4. Your Association may, however, rest assured that in every case in which specific complaint is made to the Postmaster-General most careful enquiries are made and though the result of these enquiries may appear nugatory in particular cases the cumulative effect of the evidence afforded is of great value to the Postmaster-General in testing the reliability of individual offices and officers. In this connection I may inform you that the official records disclose that the number of complaints regarding the Kandy Post Office has not been abnormal in recent months.

I am, etc.,
(Signed) A. N. GALBRAITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

Mr. E. W. KEITH: Mr. Pagden has now left the Postal Department and the matter might be dropped.

Mr. A. LEE SIMPSON: Yes; the matter might be dropped. We might bring it up again if we discover further losses in the post.

A CORNER IN ALLAGALLA ROAD.

The HON. SECRETARY read the following letter:—

4th December, 1912.

FROM THE PROVINCIAL ENGINEER, C. P.
TO THE HON. SECRETARY,
Planters' Association, Kandy.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I do not consider the work you ask for is so important a nature as to justify my applying for the funds to carry it out as a work necessary for the preservation and safety of the road.

2. Should your Committee consider the matter is of great importance, I have no doubt an application to Government will receive every consideration, and should the work be considered necessary, I shall receive instructions to carry it out.

I am, etc.,
(Signed) WALTER C. PRICE, P.E., C.P.

The HON. SECRETARY: This letter was sent to the C. P. A., and they have sent it on to us with the following foot note:—

This must refer to some letter from the Kandy Districts P. A. Forward to their Hon. Secretary.

Mr. STANLEY HILLMAN: We might drop the matter as it is not necessary.

This was all the business before the meeting.

PUSSELLAWA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting was held on the 1st March, 1913. Present: Messrs.—Geo. Benzie, Chairman; P. P. C. Walker, Hon. Secretary; G. Fenning, W. F. C. Rolt, H. J. P. Samarasekera, J. A. Woods, W. H. Murray, D. Westland, F. Griffiths, P. A. Cornish, G. A. S. Collin, Car Hamond, J. A. Burmester, M. Johnstone, W. W. Stevens, Robt. S. Northway, Wm. MacGregor, O. S. Agar, J. Raummel and W. S. Blackett.

Read notice calling the meeting.

The minutes of the general meeting of the 4th January, held at Pussellawa, were read by the Hon. Secretary, and on the motion being put to the meeting by the Chairman, they were duly confirmed.

The Accounts for the year were tabled. The net credit balance was Rs. 137.14 as against Rs. 105.77 last year. All subscriptions had been paid. Mr. Douglas Westland was thanked for having audited the accounts.

DONATIONS FROM SURPLUS BALANCES.

Out of the surplus balance it was proposed by Mr. W. MACGREGOR, and seconded by Mr. W. W. STEVENS that Rs. 50 be voted for the S. P. C. A.—Carried.

Proposed by Mr. W. MACGREGOR, and seconded by Mr. W. W. STEVENS, that Rs. 25 be voted to the Hatton Nursing Home.—Carried.

The next item on the agenda was the annual report.

THE CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report, said a copy had been posted to all the members. It was resolved to adopt the report.

HOSPITAL REPORT.

Pussellawa Hospital was visited on the March 1st, by Mr. G. Fenning, who reported that there were 8 patients—3 males and 5 females—no overcrowding. All buildings, grounds, etc., in excellent order. An urgent want is a covered way from kitchen to female ward, and another from the male ward to the latrines. Although this want has been often pointed out by hospital visitors no steps have been taken to have this matter attended to.

Gampola Hospital was visited by Mr. P. P. C. Walker on February 27th. There were 52 patients in hospital, of which 45 were females. 29 of these were suffering from anchylostomiasis. 45 beds is the accommodation of the hospital. As there will probably be much more sickness when the rains start, it is obvious that the accommodation is sufficient. The site of the hospital is unhealthy, and always liable to be flooded in the rainy season.

RE-ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND HON. SECRETARY.

The annual report having been adopted the CHAIRMAN then said that before he retired he would like to thank the members for their support during the past year and for the very good attendance at all the meetings. As he was a busy man he was afraid he could not devote sufficient time to the duties of Chairman, and so hoped that they would elect someone else.

Mr. Wm. MacGREGOR was then voted to the chair, and thanked the meeting for appointing him *pro tem*. He then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Benzie for having acted as Chairman during 1912, and for the keen interest he had taken in the affairs of the Association. The vote was carried with acclamation.

Mr. MACGREGOR then proposed the re-election of Mr. Benzie, which was heartily supported by the whole meeting. Mr. Benzie consented to act for another year, and, on taking the chair again, thanked the meeting for the honour in re-appointing him. He thanked the Hon. Secretary Mr. P. P. C. Walker, for his past services and proposed his re-election for the coming year, which was carried by the meeting.

NEW RULES.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the new rules, said that these had been carefully drafted by a Special Committee, having been selected from the rules (2) from various districts, and those suitable embodied in their rules. The meeting then agreed to adopt the rules. Mr. DOUGLAS WESTLAND proposed that the rules of the Planters' Association of Ceylon be also printed in the Association's book for the sake of reference. It was agreed to do so.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

Seven out of the 34 members of the Committee having either left the district or about to go on furlough, five others were elected in their place, making 32 members in all, as follows:—The Chairman, Secretary, Messrs. J. A. Burmester, D. J. Blyth, J. D. Mendis, O. S. Edwards, D. Westland, W. F. C. Rolt, R. S. Northway, Wm. MacGregor, A. G. Craighead, E. A. Clive, E. D. Beresford Bruce, H. J. G. Marley, H. M. Picken, J. A. Woods, A. H. Thomas, J. Aymer, O. Shelton Agar, G. Fenning, W. H. Murray, A. P. Sandback, H. Nelson Brown, P. Eardly Wilmot, A. Taie, H. J. P. Samarasekara, A. V. VanLangenberg, Carr Hamond, Wallace Westland, A. Unwin, G. A. S. Collin, and P. A. Cornish.

KANDY COMMITTEE (5 members)—Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Messrs. W. H. Murray, H. M. Picken, and D. J. Blyth.

J. P. AND U. P. M.—Messrs. H. M. Picken and Geo. Benzie.

It was proposed by Mr. JOHNSTONE seconded by Mr. GEO. BENZIE that Mr. W. H. Murray's name be submitted to the Government Agent, as J. P. and U. P. M. in place of the late Mr. G. D. Brabazon.—Carried.

DISTRICT HOSPITAL VISITORS.—Gampola, D. J. Blyth; Pussellawa, G. Fenning.

PLANTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.—Chairman and Secretary.

ROADS.

Read letter from the P. E. Kandy, who sent a plan of roads for corners to be marked. It was agreed to form a Committee to ask the P. E., to go over roads with them for the purpose of inspecting the dangerous corners. The Committee elected were:—Messrs. Geo. Benzie, P. P. C. Walker, D. Westland, and W. F. C. Rolt.

LABOUR.

Mr. Douglas Westland's resolution was before the meeting.

1. "That this Association do urge the necessity for legalising the Tundu as an individual document by interpolating in Section No. 24, sub-section 1 after the word 'tundu' on which shall be stated the individual indebtedness of each labourer."

2. "That notice to leave the estate be issued through a Police Magistrate."

A long discussion took place on this, which was finally carried.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Read letter from the Government Agent saying that a new arrack tavern is to be opened on 1st July, 1913, at Pooprasie.

Letters regretting inability to attend were received from Messrs. H. M. Picken, A. V. VanLangenberg, J. D. Mendis, F. H. Simpson, and Alex. Tait.

(Signed) P. P. C. WALKER,
Hon. Secretary.

BATTICALOA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Rest-house, Batticaloa, at 9 a.m. on March 8th, 1913. Members present:—Messrs. C. J. Backhouse, P. P. Shuttleworth, J. Wells, R. P. Doudney, J. Cotton, A. Jemmett Browne, and J. W. Cotton, Hon. Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN said: Before reading you the annual report there are a few subjects that I would like to touch upon. After the inauguration of this Association 13 years ago, we have on many occasions been able to congratulate ourselves on obtaining for the district some of its urgent necessities. During the last few years, however, our wants have been few and those brought forward are really necessary. These, I am sorry to say, have been shelved and we seem no nearer of getting what we have asked for than 5 years ago. For instance, take the promised motor mail service between Batticaloa and Bandarawella. This service was to have started in July, 1910, nearly three years ago. Still we have to put up with the up-to-date service, travelling at 3 miles an hour. Our request for some suitable and quicker means of crossing the Kalladi Ferry was brought up by this Association in 1903. In 1906 it was decided to build a bridge. This was fou not do

expensive. A chain ferry boat propelled by hand labour was substituted and in 1911 was placed on the lake. It was supposed to cover the distance between the two shores in 15 minutes. In practice it took from 45 minutes to 6 hours to cross. His Excellency in July, 1912, condemned the whole concern, but since then nothing has been done by Government to rectify the error. Probably in the far future we may obtain some means of transit to meet the wants of the district. Arugam Bay, one of the future principal ports of call, receives little or no attention.

The report was then read as follows:—

13TH ANNUAL REPORT.

MEMBERSHIP.—There are 11 members on the register.

FINANCE.—We have a balance of Rs. 36 in hand and two subscriptions are still due.

CROPS.—Taken on the whole the season's crops have been satisfactory and good prices for copra maintained.

ROADS.—The roads throughout the district are in good order; the P. W. D. have to be congratulated. More attention is necessary to the roads in the town looked after by the Local Board.

LABOUR.—Sufficient for all requirements.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

Mr. J. W. Cotton was re-elected Chairman and Hon. Secretary for the ensuing year.

Mr. Jemmett Browne and the Chairman were elected for the Parent Association, Kandy.

KALLAR CAUSEWAY.

On the proposal of Mr. JEMMETT BROWNE it was resolved to write to the Provincial Engineer asking him to supply the Association with the dates on which the Kallar and Ondatchymadam causeways were impassable during the recent floods, not taking into account the damage done to the roads by the flood.

MOTOR MAIL SERVICE.

Proposed and unanimously carried that the Colonial Secretary be written to asking what steps are being taken to inaugurate the new service, and when we may expect it to be started.

ROOFING OF JETTIES.

Resolved that the Provincial Engineer be written to asking if the sheds over Kidankey and Batticaloa jetties can be put in hand at once, as produce is being damaged.

THEFTS OF COCONUTS.

Proposed by Mr. WELLS and unanimously carried that Government be approached to make the Ordinance now in vogue in the Matale and Kalutara districts for the protection of cocoa and rubber applicable to the theft of coconuts.

A vote of thanks to the chair proposed by Mr. Browne and seconded by Mr. BACKHOUSE brought the meeting to a close.

J. W. COTTON,

Hon. Secretary, Batticaloa P. A.

UDA-PUSSELLAWA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

INVITATION TO THE ACTING GOVERNOR.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND AND NURSING HOME.

A General Meeting of the above was held at Ragalla Resthouse at 3 p.m. on Thursday (17th). Mr. W. H. Biddulph, Chairman, presided. Present:—Messrs. C. J. Owen, E. T. C. Farr, E. E. Nicol, W. A. Gordon, A. C. Wilson, Archibald Alger, A. D. Atkins, C. A. Johnson, C. Boswell (members); Messrs. H. A. Beachcroft, D. F. Burton, F. Troup and H. F. Thompson (visitors), and Mr. A. Glennie, Hon. Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN intimated that he had received a private letter from His Excellency Sir Henry McCallum, in which H. E. asked him to convey his thanks to both bodies, i.e., to the C. P. R. C. and the Uda-Pussellawa P. A., for the generous expression of sympathy they had forwarded to him. The many letters he had received from Ceylon were a source of great consolation to him in his ailment which overtook him when engaged "in the sacred cause of duty." He and Lady McCallum appreciated to the utmost their vote of sympathy. When in Ceylon they had tried to do their best for all—and they could do no more than that.

The letter to the Chairman was a lengthy one—what was read to the meeting was from various passages of it.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GIVING FALSE INFORMATION AT RAGAMA CAMP.

The CHAIRMAN said there was a resolution from the Punduloya Association.

The SECRETARY read the resolution which solicited the support of the District Associations for approaching Government for sanction to prosecute Indian labourers who go to the Coast, return to Ceylon through the Ragama Camp, and there state they had not been in the Island before. Under the present regulations such offenders could only be prosecuted in the Colombo District Court. The resolution was trying to move the Attorney-General to sanction the prosecution of such offenders in the District Courts to which the estates from which the offenders had bolted were scheduled.

The CHAIRMAN said he believed Government had refused a little time ago to sanction that request, he hoped that any of them who had a better memory than himself would correct him. The reason given for refusing such sanction was that it would not be convenient.

Mr. A. C. WILSON: In the report of the K. V. Association meeting I noticed that that Association did not support the Punduloya resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: Am I right in supposing that the Superintendent of Ragama Camp has the authority to prosecute?

Mr. A. D. ATKINS: When I was in Ratnapura I charged a bolter from my estate with giving false information at Ragama. The cooly was sent from Ragama to Cocagalla, Madulsima. I ran him in in the District Court of Ratnapura and he got six months.

Mr. E. E. NICOL: Can you get the number of that case? It will help us to establish a precedent.

Mr. ATKINS: I can.

Mr. NICOL: You have created a precedent.

Mr. W. A. GORDON proposed that they support the Punduloya resolution.

Mr. A. Glennie seconded.—Carried.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, the amount subscribed through this Association is Rs. 202-50. This seems very small indeed. I do not think the amount half sufficient. The Hon. Secretary has just informed me that some of the subscriptions have been sent direct.

Mr. E. T. C. FARR: There are only 26 estates, and on 15 of them there are superintendents; there are S. D.'s on the others.

Mr. NICOL: We might ask the Hon. Secretary to appeal to the agents.

The CHAIRMAN: I think it is a fund to which all would cheerfully subscribe, it slips their memory and though ready to give if asked personally the matter escapes their attention and they do not give. I think a canvasser should be appointed to collect for the fund.

Mr. A. C. WILSON: Whom did we appoint this year to serve on the Standing Committee?

The CHAIRMAN: The Chairman and Hon. Secretary. I should like to see a special canvasser appointed. Until we did that in Dimbula we failed to have the fund supported as it should have been; when that was done the subscriptions were considerably increased. If one of you, gentlemen, will act as a canvasser and take an interest in it I feel sure the Uda-Pussellawa district contribution will be much larger than it is to-day. Will you act as a canvasser Mr. Gordon?

Mr. W. A. GORDON: Will you define my duties? (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Secretary will furnish you with a list of those who have subscribed. You will have to write to those who have not subscribed and to agents of estates.

Mr. W. A. GORDON: I am quite willing to act as canvasser.

Resolved:—"That Mr. Gordon be appointed a canvasser to the Benevolent Fund."

HATTON NURSING HOME.

The CHAIRMAN: Our Subscriptions to this fund amount to Rs. 117-50. The institution is a very excellent one and deserves to be better supported by our District Association. I am sure the appointment of a canvasser will help the cause of the Home. Will Mr. Wilson canvass for the Home?

Mr. A. C. WILSON: Did this Association send up the names of Mrs. Wilson and myself for election on the General Committee?

The HON. SECRETARY: No.

Mr. A. C. WILSON: Both of us have been elected.

The CHAIRMAN: That must have been owing to the interest you took in the Home when in Dikoya.

Mr. A. C. WILSON: I have no objection to canvass for funds in this district for the Home.

Resolved:—"That Mr. A. C. Wilson be appointed a canvasser for the Uda-Pussellawa P. A. on behalf of the Hatton Nursing Home."

H. E. THE ACTING GOVERNOR BE INVITED TO UDA-PUSSELLAWA.

The CHAIRMAN: Coming up under the subject of correspondence is that of inviting our Acting Governor to Uda-Pussellawa—(hear, hear)—to pay us a visit. I have a letter here which tells me that Mrs. Stubbs will arrive in Ceylon on the 10th of May, and that our Acting Governor would be pleased to visit the district either at the end of May or early in June. Is it your wish, gentlemen, that the Acting Governor and Mrs. Stubbs should be invited here to a luncheon or other function you may decide on?

Mr. E. E. NICOL: We are greatly indebted to you Mr. Chairman for the suggestion. As one of the older members of the Association, I am sure it will give this district much pleasure to entertain our Acting Governor and Mrs. Stubbs. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN: The next step is to elect a Committee to arrange details.

Mr. E. E. NICOL: I propose that the Chairman, the Hon. Secretary, Messrs. C. J. Owen, A. C. Wilson, E. T. C. Farr and W. A. Gordon be elected a Committee to arrange for details.

Mr. GLENNIE seconded.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to see your name on that Committee Mr. Nicol. May I include it?

Mr. NICOL: I think the Committee should be formed of younger and more energetic men than myself. You want workers.

The CHAIRMAN: We have workers. But they also need the guiding hand.

Mr. NICOL: I am quite willing to give any assistance I can, and come up to any meetings should you want me.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Nicol. Having that assurance I now put the Committee proposed by yourself and seconded by Mr. Glennie for election to the meeting.—Carried.

The CHAIRMAN: There has been correspondence for years past between the Government and this Association in regard to the water supply of the Uda-Pussellawa Hospital. In that connection I received a letter yesterday intimating that the Hon. the Planting Member in Council, Mr. Rosling, has been asked to find out and deal with the owner of the patna from which the Hospital could be supplied with a pure and adequate water supply. I am not personally aware of all the facts in connection with this subject. I see that as far back as 1902 that the proposal was reported on by Government as not worth the expenditure. The other day I came upon some rules published in the Government "Gazette." I daresay some of you may have seen the rules. I have before me the rules relating to the Medical Wants Ordinance of 1912. There are two rules to which I like to call your attention, i.e., Rule No. 43 and Rule No. 47. Under those rules superintendents of estates had to see that their labour force was supplied with a *pure water supply*, and that such supply where liable to contamination by labourers on the estate or the public should be covered, and where the supply was deficient and inferior the superintendent should make provision for a supply that would give satisfaction to the letter of the Ordinance.

Rule 43.—A sufficient supply of potable water shall be provided for the estate hospital, and the Medical Officer or dispenser shall see that there is no chance of contamination of the supply.

Rule 47.—It shall be the duty of the superintendent of every estate to provide a sufficient supply of potable water for his labour force. Such supply shall be free from contamination, and if in the opinion of the P. C. M. O. the supply is deficient, inferior or open to contamination it shall be the duty of the superintendent to provide a proper supply to the satisfaction of the P. C. M. O.

The CHAIRMAN read the rules with much emphasis and then, addressing himself to the meeting with some vehemence, said: Gentlemen, if all that is required of us, I want to see the P. C. M. O. justify his action, in one of his own hospitals. I have no words which could convey to you the extent of the P. C. M. O.'s neglectfulness. I do believe that but for the strong planting element on the Medical Wants Committee on which Mr. Bliss is doing so much good, I am sure this scandal would have gone on till something very serious happened. It is a satisfaction to know that the matter has been taken up with a seriousness from which good must result.

TELEPHONES.

The CHAIRMAN: The next business is the subject of our district telephone. Here are the rules which the Dimbula district telephone use for controlling the work. We are largely indebted to Mr. Glennie for the immense amount of work he has put in in connection with our telephone services. You will have some idea of his abilities when I tell you how thoroughly he grasped the details of our service and that his estimate for this installation leaves us with the small balance of Rs. 20 after the expenditure on outlay has been met. It wants a person with a good deal of push and energy to undertake a work of this nature, and see it carried through as satisfactorily as our telephone service is doing at the present time. I should like it to be clearly understood that complaints against the operators and overseer must be made to the gentlemen in charge of the two exchanges, i.e., Mr. C. C. Wilson, who has undertaken to supervise the exchange at the upper end, and Mr. A. C. Wilson at the lower end. I say so as there is a letter before me from an operator complaining of being abused by one of our subscribers. The matter has been dealt with by the Telephone Committee, and it was then felt that Messrs. Wilson should be the gentlemen to take up with the staff and not every individual subscriber.

Mr. E. E. NICOL: I see it is proposed to open the exchange for communication at 6-30 a.m., that would be too late. We are on muster at 6, and when we are sending coolies on to another estate we would like to communicate with that estate at 6 a.m. Why not begin work at 6 a.m. and shut up at 7-30 p.m.?

Mr. J. C. OWEN: I would object to that, arrangements for sending labour might be made on the previous night.

Mr. W. A. GORDON: Most are not about till after 6-30 a.m.

Mr. C. J. OWEN: Mr. Nicol can communicate at 6 a.m. by paying a disturbance fee of 25 cents.

The CHAIRMAN: I think it best to move this meeting into a Committee if the rules are to be discussed in detail. With your permission, gentlemen, I move this meeting into a Committee.

When the general meeting was reformed, the CHAIRMAN intimated that the Dimbula Telephone Rules were

adopted in full with a few minor alterations suggested by the Uda-Pussellawa Telephone Committee.

Mr. A. C. WILSON: Sir, you proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Glennie for the work he has put in in connection with the installation of our telephone service. I should like to see your vote of thanks minuted in the records of this Association.

Mr. W. A. GORDON seconded.

Resolved: "That a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Glennie from the U.P.P.A. be minuted in recognition for his invaluable services in connection with the district."

Mr. W. A. GORDON: How about trunk line connection?

The CHAIRMAN: That will come, Government are assisting us. The Secretary received a letter dated the 16th April from the Superintendent of Telegraphs promising us assistance to fix up a temporary service between our two exchanges.

The Secretary read the following letter from the Superintendent of Telegraphs, Colombo:—

Sir,
Referring to your letter of April 9th, 1913. I have the honour to inform you that I can arrange to send an inspector at an early date, who, with the assistance of the few coolies whom you kindly promised to lend him, will be able to fix up a temporary telephone service between your two exchanges.

I would remind you, however, that this construction will only be a temporary one, and I cannot guarantee a really satisfactory service until I have reconstructed the whole line properly during the coming financial year.

The CHAIRMAN: Item five on the agenda paper is hospitals.

At our last meeting a letter was read to you from the P. C. M. O. intimating the intention of the Government in regard to the closing down of the Mulhakkelle Hospital, and justifying his action in doing so. It was only after I got home that the matter came very prominently to my notice. It was pointed out to me that Government would be making a very serious mistake in closing that hospital, so I wrote to His Excellency the Acting Governor to seriously consider the action contemplated and to take such steps as were expedient after enquiring into the history of that hospital. Our Acting Governor has evidently moved in the matter. On the 4th April I had a letter informing me that the question of keeping the hospital open for another year was being considered. To-day Mr. Wilson met two gentlemen at Nuwara Eliya who were appointed a Committee to discuss the question.

Mr. ALGER: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the hospital is to be closed because the villagers have not used it in recent years. That is largely due to the fact that villagers are not aware when the hospital is open, and when it was shut, the reason for that is that the Government never had it opened during three fixed months of each year. To my knowledge the hospital has not been opened in that way during the last four years. If the hospital was kept opened each year, during specified months, it would be freely resorted to by the inhabitants of the villages around there which have a population of 13,600.

The medical man attached to the Government Dispensary is only an apothecary. He has to visit different centres many miles distant from his dispensary from Monday to Friday. He is in the dispensary only on Saturdays. His assistant, who was dismissed from the service some 12 months ago, was not substituted. We

planters and others out there, *in case of emergency*, cannot get any medicine dispensed there except on Saturdays, as the apothecary is miles out during the day. Had the assistant been substituted, there would be somebody there to compound medicine. I have gone to much trouble recently to have the staff kept at its strength. When in Colombo I went and saw Dr. Rutherford, the assistant P. C. M. O., and was told that they had no money, and that what funds were available was wanted for other centres where there were no dispensaries.

Mr. ADKINS: The situation at our end is a very serious one. When I took over the charge of Maha Uva two months ago, I had an outbreak of measles, and I found the utmost difficulty in getting medical aid, neither the D. M. O. of Uda-Pussellawa or Maturatta seemed to know to which district the estate was scheduled. The delay in getting medical aid resulted in the death of four children.

Mr. E. E. NICOL: The situation is very serious. It is shameful. It is a disgrace to the administration of the Medical Department.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Adkin's remarks show you that I was right in pressing for an enquiry. I have no doubt that the Acting Governor will help us in this matter.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wilson, can you tell us what happened at Nuwara Eliya this morning?

Mr. A. C. WILSON: What I can tell you—cannot be published in the press.

The CHAIRMAN: In that case I move that this meeting be moved into Committee.—Carried.

When the general meeting was resumed.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that Messrs. A. C. Wilson and A. D. Atkins be appointed a Committee to visit the Mulhalkelle Hospital to report on building and submit an estimate of cost of necessary repairs to make the hospital buildings habitable and safe for occupation.

ST. MARGARET'S-KIRKLEES CART ROAD.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, the matter of the St. Margaret's-Kirklees cart road has been included in the business agenda of to-day. I am not sure that it is a matter of interest to the Uda-Pussellawa Association.

Mr. E. E. NICOL: We have always supported the agitation.

We have been at it for *very many* years.

The CHAIRMAN: We have reached a stage where we can make no further progress till the Provincial Road Committee takes action. They have first to appoint assessors; till that is done we can do nothing. I hope to have this matter dealt with shortly. Personally I should like to see the Acting Governor cut the first sod of the road when he visits us next June. Whether that can be done with the present rate of progress is a question which remains to be solved.

DANGEROUS CORNERS ON CART ROAD.

The CHAIRMAN: On the subject of dangerous corners on cart road between Kandapolla and St. Margaret's, the Hon. Secretary has received a letter which gives us a setback. I will ask him to read it:—

Colombo, April 10th, 1913.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

TO THE HON. SECRETARY,

Uda-Pussellawa Planters' Association,
Gordon, Uda-Pussellawa.

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inform you that I regret I am not in a position to furnish you with information regarding my communications with Government.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) FRANCIS A. COOPER.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have obviously made a mistake in addressing our communication to the D. P. W. I think he is the only head of a Government department in Ceylon who would write in that fashion. He might have shown us some consideration. I want to make it clear to you, gentlemen, that the mistake was *mine* as Chairman of your Association in that I allowed a resolution to be passed from this chair to be forwarded to the D. P. W. It should, of course, have been to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. I cannot think how I came to make that mistake, it is one that I will not make again, and cannot understand why I did it.

Mr. A. GLENNIE: You passed it because we have previously corresponded with the D. P. W. on the subject.

Mr. W. A. GORDON: If my memory serves me right, in his correspondence he promised to help us in the matter.

Mr. A. GLENNIE then referred to the correspondence file and found that in reply to a letter addressed to the D. P. W. in July of last year, asking to have the dangerous corners cut back, the D. P. W. wrote that the letter was receiving his attention. There was also a letter dated the 10th October and 6th November in which the D. P. W. states that provision not having been made for the work in the estimates of 1912 he would see to it in 1913.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, on the face of those letters it was not unnatural that we should have gone to him and asked for the information sought, i.e., was provision made for this work in 1913?

Mr. E. E. NICOL: On behalf of this Association I wish to say, Sir, we do not think you have made any mistake. We have been refused the information asked by the D. P. W. I propose we addressed the Hon. the Colonial Secretary and seek that information.

Mr. W. A. GORDON seconded.—Carried.

APPALLING DEATH RATE ON ESTATES.

Death Rate Exceeds Births by 2,611 for 1911.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, the business on the agenda paper has been fully dealt with. Before we close this meeting I like to draw your attention to the appalling death rate on plantations in Ceylon. I was looking over the figures published by the Registrar-General for 1911, and what made a lasting impression on mind was that while the *births* of Tamils on estates for that year totalled 15,874, the *deaths* ran up to 18,513. Now those figures seem to me to show that this high death rate is the most important of all the labour problems we have to face. We must do something towards checking this death-rate, as it has a very great bearing on the labour question of to-day. And I make no apology for saying that no person interested in the

planting industry of Ceylon will not own that concentrated effort should be directed towards reducing the death rate on our estates. In the Agras for the last two or three years, a nursing scheme has been established which is doing good work. A fully trained midwife from Colombo has been engaged, and she is sent out to estates where labour cases are expected. She trains the estate midwives on those estates and others. Mr. Scott, who is carrying out the movement, has sent up to us results in reports and they are available to any of you interested in the movement. If we can follow suit up here it will be a step in the right direction.

Mr. A. C. WILSON: My company are very keen. They will help in such a movement.

Mr. E. E. NICOL: The suggestion of our Chairman is an excellent one, and I will be pleased to give what assistance I can.

Mr. A. C. WILSON: Sir, I should like with your permission to refer to the subject of signals at railway crossings. Can we hope to get them?

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think we will.

Mr. W. A. GORDON: We should ask the G. M. R. to ask engine drivers to use the engine whistles as they approach corners—you can hear a whistle, but not a bell from most corners.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to see a General Committee elected to deal with questions so that the business on the agenda can be dealt with and presented to the meeting.

Mr. A. C. WILSON: I give notice that at the next general meeting I will propose the election of a General Committee of this Association.

Mr. E. E. NICOL: I will second that.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. Gordon and seconded by Mr. OWEN.

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